

[Translation]

Tehri Dam Project

*543. DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have decided to construct Tehri Project with the assistance of Russia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other sources from which funds have been arranged by the Government for the construction of the project alongwith the funds received therefrom, separately?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : (a) to (c). The Tehri Hydro Power Project (2400 MW) was earlier planned for execution in three stages on a turn key basis with financial and technical assistance from the erstwhile Government of USSR. However, with the break up of the USSR no financial assistance is forthcoming from the Government of Russia for the construction of the Tehri Project. Due to financial constraints, it has been decided to complete the ongoing Tehri Hydroelectric Project (1000 MW) (Stage-I) by continuing the civil works with the available domestic resources and acquisition of machinery and equipments through external funding.

A Russian Consortium comprising manufacturers from Russia and Ukraine had also submitted a proposal for supply of electro-mechanical equipments backed by financing for the ongoing Tehri Hydroelectric Project. The proposal is being negotiated by Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) who are implementing the project.

[English]

Amendments in DPCO

*544. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received any representation from th drug industry for making amendmets in the Drug Price Control Order, 1995 (DPCO);
- (b) if so, the details therof; and
- (c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c). Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO) was promulgated as recently as on 6.1.95 and no amendment has been made so far. The industry associations have proposed amendmets, which cover, inter-alia exclusion of certain drugs from price control, reduction in frequency of submission of information, updating of norms etc. These are being looked into.

Visit of President of Iran

*545. SHRI NURUL ISLAM :

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether President of Iran visited India recently at the invitation of Indian Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the cities visited by the President and his entourage;
- (c) the subjects discussed by him with Indian leaders and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether any agreements/MOUs were signed between the two countries during the visit;
- (e) if so, the salient features of each agreement and its likely impact on India's relations with gulf countries, particularly Iraq;
- (f) the steps being taken to implement the agreements/MOUs;
- (g) the views expressed by the Iranian President on Kashmir issue and other related problems; and
- (h) the extent to which the mutual relations between India and Iran are likely to improve?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (h). The President of Iran, H.E. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, paid a State visit to India from 17-19 April, 1995. During his stay in India, President Rafsanjani called on President, held wide-ranging discussions with Prime Minister, addressed a special meeting of Parliament, and met the External Affairs Minister. Delegation level talks were also held. The itinerary of visit included a 6-hour visit to Lucknow on 18 April 1995.

The discussions focussed on bilateral relations between India and Iran and extended to an exchange of views on the regional and international situation, especially the possibilities of enhanced cooperation in international and regional forums. The two sides agreed to work together to strengthen peace and stability in the region, and emphasised that terrorism is an impediment in the realisation of this objective.

The discussions covered the range of bilateral economic, technical and cultural cooperation. Particular attention projects as well as in the field of oil and gas. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on the setting up of a joint venture between the national oil companies of the two countries. The two sides also agreed to expand people-to-people contacts and to sustain the high-level of bilateral relations in the recent period. The two sides agreed to expand bilateral cooperation into new areas. During the visit, Memoranda of Understanding were signed on Cooperation in

Tourism; Telecommunications & Postal Services; Environment and Prevention of Drug Trafficking. A Cultural Exchange Programme was also concluded.

During the period of the Iranian President's visit, the Foreign Ministers of India, Iran and Turkmenistan met in New Delhi and discussed the issues of regional cooperation with focus on trade, transit and transport between the Central Asian region, Iran and India. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding on International Road and Rail Transport and Transit between the Governments of India, Iran and Turkmenistan was signed. The Foreign Ministers agreed that a full-fledged agreement in this sphere will be negotiated and concluded within the next six months.

Government is taking steps to implement the proposals agreed upon in the MOUs concluded with Iran. The MOUs signed between India and Iran are bilateral in nature and will not have any adverse impact on our relations with third countries, including Iraq and the Gulf countries.

Iran has called for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir issue, through a dialogue between India and Pakistan, taking into account the wishes of the people of J&K, and has offered to be of assistance in this regard.

Government believe that the all-round cooperation and mutual understanding between India and Iran subsisting at present will be further enhanced in the period ahead.

Revival Package for IISCO

*546. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether representatives of the trade unions and management of IISCO have decided to renew efforts for a revival package;

(b) if so, whether any concrete measures have been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c). In terms of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (as amended in February, 1994) Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO) became a sick industrial company. Accordingly, a reference was made by the Board of Directors of IISCO to BIFR in June, 1994, as required under Section 15 of the Act, for determination of measures to be adopted with respect to the company.

The case has been registered with BIFR in terms of Section 15 of the Act. Sick companies registered with BIFR can take up revival/modernisation schemes only with the sanction/approval of BIFR.

[Translation]

Agreement with Vietnam

*547. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the terms of agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with Vietnam for cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral resources;

(b) the duration of the agreement/MOU; and

(c) the date from which it would be effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with Vietnam for cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral resources identified the following areas for cooperation :

(i) Mineral Exploration : The Geological Survey of India would offer assistance in different phases of mineral exploration (geophysical and geochemical exploration and drilling) and also provide training for geologists of Vietnam in various geoscience disciplines;

(ii) Mineral Processing and Development : Indian Bureau of Mines would offer assistance in orebody modelling and assessment of ore reserves using computerised techniques;

(iii) Setting up of an Aluminium Smelter in Vietnam;

(iv) Setting up of joint venture to mine and process mineral resources in Vietnam;

(v) Setting up of a joint venture to explore and develop gold deposit at Pac Lang in Vietnam.

(b) The MOU is valid for a period of three years and is extendable.

(c) The MOU is effective from 18th April, 1995, the date on which it was signed.

[English]

FWFI Revival Plan

*548. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fertilizer Workers' Federation of India (FWFI) has urged the Government to reconsider the techno-economic revival plan it had submitted five years ago, for each of the sick units under the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?