

PROF. P.J.KURIEN : Yes, Sir, We are already implementing scheme of energy production from distillery waste and 70 such units are already functioning.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at Calcutta a nodal research centre is experimenting on various technologies in order to have management of solid wastes of the municipalities. They are in search of funds for research. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of this research organisation and this research effort. Is he prepared to be generous enough to provide funds for them?

PROF. P.J.KURIEN : Sir, if that falls within the scheme of the Ministry, I have no problem.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in most of the areas the garbage of the municipal waste is being utilised as manure also. May I know from the hon. Minister whether, after utilising the waste for producing energy, the residue will also be useful as manure?

PROF. P.J.KURIEN : Sir, there are different technologies. In one technology that is the latest one the residue will be very less. But in some other technologies, the residue can be used as manure.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Gauge Conversion

* 144. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects for conversion from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge in the country which have been approved but pending due to non-availability of the funds;

(b) the time by which these projects are likely to be taken up and completed;

(c) whether any World Bank assistance has been sought for these Projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) The following projects which have been approved for conversion are pending due to non-availability of funds:

(1) Kashipur-Lalkuan

(2) Bhildi-Luni

(3) Mehsana-Patan with extension to Bhildi

(b) These projects are temporarily frozen due to constraint of resources and low operational priority. They would be taken up after some of the ongoing projects get completed and the resource position improves. The programme of completion of these projects would be decided once the work on these projects is resumed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Foreign Investment in Capital Goods

145. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a core group to suggest measures to resolve the problems spawned by liberalisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to further increase foreign investments in development of Capital goods industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Initiatives taken by the Government to promote investment both domestic and foreign in the development of capital goods include, *inter-alia*, automatic approval upto 51% foreign equity in 35 high priority industries (Annex III of statement of Industrial Policy, 1991) removal of physical restrictions on imports of raw materials and components; reduction in customs duty on capital goods, components and raw materials; extension of MODVAT to capital goods, etc. Accelerated industrial growth would further boost investment in capital goods industries.

Health Expenditure

*146 SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure spent on health in terms of GNP; and

(b) the reasons why real social sector spending has fallen in India during the past few years of fiscal restructuring?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) and (b) : It is estimated that the percentage of total expenditure on health in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 6% of which 1.3% is Public Sector Expenditure. The 4th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare held in October, 95 strongly urges the Central Government, Planning Commission and the State Governments to step up health allocation and also to encourage wider participation in health care by the private sector so that direct investment by the Government can be raised to a minimum of 5% of the GDP and the total investment in health goes upto 10% of GDP.

The Health and Family Welfare Sector, which constitutes a part of Social Sector spending, received the following plan allocations during the last four years:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	
1992-93	2222.00
1993-94	2709.20
1994-95	3249.10
1995-96	3754.90

Accident of Goods Train

*147. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was an accident of goods train