

(b) if so, whether works recommended by the Members of Tenth Lok Sabha mentioned in clause 3.10 of the guidelines, which could not be implemented due to imposition of model code of conduct are likely to be implemented;

(c) the details of pending schemes, constituency-wise;

(d) the time by which these are likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The revised guidelines on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) issued on 15.2.1997 to all the District Collectors, cover implementation of works under MPLADS and are meant to be observed.

(b) The works recommended by the Members of the Tenth Lok Sabha which could not be implemented due to the Model Code of Conduct, can be taken up in terms of the provision contained in para 3.9 of the revised guidelines.

(c) to (e) Exact phazing details of such schemes are not maintained by the Department of Programme Implementation.

Power Purchase Agreement

1809. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any power purchase agreement has been signed in regard to the Rouza Thermal Power Station in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the installation work is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) The promoters have intimated that the work on the project will be taken up by them after achieving financial closure expected by end 1997.

[English]

Examination of Interview Centres

1810. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the different Departments of Government of India do not generally conduct open examination or interview centres in the capitals of the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government propose to open such centres in the capital of each North-Eastern States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) Union Public Service Commission and Staff Selection Commission, are having centres of examination at the capitals of all the North-Eastern States, Interviews are also held at various places including capitals of North-Eastern states depending upon the number of candidates etc. The existing arrangements are considered adequate.

[Translation]

Allotment of Residential Accommodation to Political Parties

1811. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the directives with regard to allotment of residential accommodation from general pool to the employees working in the parliamentary offices of the recognised political parties have been received from the Hon'ble Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the names of the political parties whose applications for allotment of residential accommodation are lying pending with the Government for the last three years inspite of the fact that the same has been sanctioned but the accommodations have not been allotted to them due to the stay order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court;

(c) the time by which the residential accommodation is likely to be allotted to the employees of the above parties as per their quota;

(d) whether the Government propose to increased the existing quota of residential accommodation for different political parties from one third to 100 percent;

(e) if so, the proposal of the Government in this regard; and

(f) the number of political parties whom accommodation facility has been denied and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 23.12.96 has directed that the political parties which are recognised as national parties by the Election Commission may be provided government accommodation and the Government should abide, regarding the number, by the advice to be given by the Speaker of Lok Sabha and Vice-Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

(b) Sanctions were issued for allotment of 1 type-III and 2 Type-II quarters in favour of Bharatiya Janta Party for its employees on 19.7.95. The sanctions have not been operated due to interim order dated 17.7.95 of the Supreme Court of India.

(c) to (f) In terms of the directions of the Supreme Court of India, revised guidelines for allotment of residential accommodation to the political parties are being framed. The number of residential units to be allotted to the political parties will be decided in consultation with the Speaker of Lok Sabha and Vice-Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

Demand of Petroleum

1812. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered the measures to check the ever increasing demand of petroleum and petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified the areas in the country where the demand of petroleum and petroleum products can be reduced; and

(d) if so, the names of such areas and the percentage of demand of these products in these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) Fuels including petroleum fuels are a source of energy which is absolutely essential for the growth and sustained economic development. The growth in the GDP implies growth in consumption of energy. The share of petroleum products, i.e., liquid fuels, in the total energy-mix in India is lower than that in the advanced countries. As the country has adopted a higher growth rate of GDP of 7% during the IX Plan, a proportionate growth in the consumption of petroleum products is inevitable.

The demand management of petroleum products will adversely affect the economic growth of the country. However, as the country is not self-sufficient in the

production of oil and is heavily dependent on imports, it is necessary to promote efficient and optimum utilisation of petroleum products. This is sought to be achieved by promoting fuel substitution, regulated supply of products like kerosene, LPG and naphtha influencing demand by pricing mechanism and conservation measures.

[English]

Exploration of Hydrocarbon

1813. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has a plan for conducting any surveys for resuming drilling operations for exploration of hydrocarbon in foothills of Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has offered any bids for exploration under the Joint Venture Exploration Programme (1995); and

(d) if so, the bids received by the Government and the names of bidders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a part of exploration, seismic data acquisition is undertaken in Poonch-Kalakot-Rajauri and Najot-Ramnagar areas and 75 GLK in Poonch-Kalakot-Rajauri area and 46 SLK in Najot-Ramnagar have already been acquired so far. Interpretation of seismic data, under acquisition now will be carried out in conjunction with all geological data obtained so far. Any techno-economically viable prospect, if brought out, would be considered for exploratory drilling.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Under the joint venture exploration programme (1995), two blocks, one completely and other partly falling in the state of J&K in Himalayan foothills were offered for exploration but no bids were received.

[Translation]

Shortage of Power

1814. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Power shortage may accrue Rs. 4,50,000 crore GDP loss" appearing in The Observer dated December 17, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;