

(d) and (e) Preference is being given to the farmers of backward areas, hilly areas and plateau regions while implementing the production oriented schemes with a view to benefit the farmers of these areas of the country. Agricultural extension services are being re-organised to transfer farm technology to the farmers of all categories including hilly and backward areas.

(f) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Bhimkund Dam Project of Orissa

357. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted the Bhimkund Irrigation Project proposal to the Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The Orissa Government proposes to take up Bhimkund Multi-purpose project in two stages. Stage-I of the Project envisages construction of a dam on river Baitarani near Neopara and two Power Houses with total installed capacities of 3 × 16 MW and 3 × 115 MW respectively. It also envisages flood control benefits to an area of 1400 sq. km. in Baitarani Delta. Stage-II of the Project envisages irrigation benefits to a new area of about 40500

hectares in addition to stabilisation of irrigation under Akhuapada Delta from the regulated releases from the Bhimkund reservoir. The project proposal for Stage-I of the project estimated to cost Rs. 328.15 crores was received from the State Government in June, 1980 and observations of Central Water Commission were communicated to the State Government. As the State Government did not comply with the observations for more than one year, the Project was deleted from the list of pending projects in October, 1983. The detailed project report for Stage-II has not been received at the Centre.

(c) The State Government has yet to submit a modified report for Stage-I and Stage-II of the Project.

Increase in Royalty of Raw Materials

358. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments have demanded increase in royalty of raw materials such as iron ores, manganese ores, chrome ores etc. in view of the increase in prices of such materials in the International Market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BAI RAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) In response to the questionnaire circulated by the Study Group constituted by Department of Mines to make recommendations for revision of Royalty Rates, various suggestions were received from State Governments. Increase in the rates of Royalty on iron ore, manganese ore and chrome

ore has been suggested by the State Governments of Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa. Details of increases sought are given in the statement below

Some of the State Governments have justified seeking higher rates on account of increased prices for such minerals in domestic as well as international markets

STATEMENT

<i>Sl No.</i>	<i>Name of Mineral</i>	<i>Existing Rate of royalty per tonne</i>	<i>Rates per tonne proposed by State Governments</i>
1	2	3	4
1.	Iron Ore (Various grades)	Rs. 0.50 to Rs. 6 00	Rs. 0 50 to Rs. 14 00
2.	Manganese Ore (Various grades)	Rs 2.00 to Rs 45 00	Rs. 4.00 to Rs 92 00
3.	Chrome Ore (Various grades)	Rs. 5 00 to Rs 60 00	Rs. 6 00 to Rs. 78 00

Opening of Post Offices in Orissa

359. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SE-
THI: Will the Minister of COM-
MUNICATIONS be pleased to state
the total number of Post Offices, both
Branch Post Offices and Sub-Post Offi-
ces opened during 1990-91 and pro-
posed to be opened in 1991-92 in
Orissa?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN
THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNI-
CATIONS (SHRI P V. RANGAY-
YA NAIDU): During 1990-91, 88
Branch Post Offices and 7 Depart-
mental Sub Post Offices were opened
in Orissa

During 1991-92, 100 Branch Post
Offices and 10 Departmental Sub Post
Offices are proposed to be opened in
Orissa

**Opening of Rural Telephone Changes
in Orissa**

360. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SE-
THI: Will the Minister of COM-
MUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Rural Tele-
phone Exchanges opened during 1990-

91 and proposed to be opened in
1991-92 in Orissa;

(b) whether most of such Telephone
Exchanges opened during 1990-91, are
yet to be commissioned; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN
THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNI-
CATIONS (SHRI P.V RANGAY-
YA NAIDU) (a) 42 Nos. opened dur-
ing 1990-91 and 30 Nos. are propos-
ed to be opened during 1991-92.

(b) All the 42 Rural Telephone Ex-
changes were commissioned

(c) Does not arise

[Translation]

**Arrests in Connection with the Assas-
sination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi**

361. SHRI RAM VILAS PAS-
WAN. Will the Minister of HOME
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested
so far in connection with the assas-
sination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi; and