

been reported by the Geological Survey of India in the Rajgir area. The hot springs are reported to issue along fault fissures within pre-Cambrian quartzites and the temperature of water varies from 35 degree celsius to 47 degree celsius. The waters are reported to have low mineral content.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### **Expert Committee to review Methodology of Cost of Production of Crops**

1277. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee constituted to review the methodology of cost of production of crops has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee has, inter-alia, reviewed the methodology of estimation of cost of production of crops and made the following recommendations in its interim report and reiterated the same in the final report.

(i) The casual hired labour may continue to be evaluated on the basis of actual wages paid whether they are market wages or statutory minimum wages.

(ii) Family labour be valued on the basis of actual wage rate for casual labour.

(iii) In order to account for management input of the farmers, the paid out cost be raised by 10 per cent.

(iv) The CACP should have a second look at the changes in the input costs before the

market arrival of the crops and adjust the procurement/minimum support prices announced before the sowing season in case the observed rise in input costs turns out to be higher than anticipated rise.

The Government after seeking the views of the concerned Ministries as also the Standing Advisory Committee accepted the above recommendations with the following modifications in respect of valuation of labour and computation of management as an input cost:

(i) the basis of valuation of labour should be statutory wage rate or the actual market rate whichever is higher.

(ii) In order to account for management input of the farmers, the total cost be raised by 10 per cent and a separate cost (Cost C) be computed by adding this component.

However, CACP, in its report on price policy for kharif crops of 1990-91, has suggested a review of this decision in view of its wider implications. The Government have sought the views of professional experts of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics on the issues and a final view will be taken after examining all the aspects.

### **Upper Krishna Project**

1278. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the storage capacity of the Upper Krishna project is in excess of the allocation made by the Krishna Water Tribunal Award;

(b) whether the Government of Karnataka is proceeding with the construction work without the project being cleared by the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to restrain the

Government of Karnataka from doing the same?

**THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA):** (a) to (c) Upper Krishna Project comprises of Upper Krishna Stage-I and Stage-II. Stage-I Project was initially approved by the the Planning ommission in November, 1963 at an estimated cost of Rs. 58.2 crores for irrigating an area of 2.424 lakh hectares (Ha). Subsequently, after examining various techno-economic and inter-State aspects, the revised project to irrigate an area of 4.25 lakh hectares was approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 283.65 crores during April, 1978. Upper Krishna Project Stage-I now comprises of two dams namely, Narayanapur and Almati across river Krishna having a combined live storage of about 60 thousand Million Cubic feet (TMC). The project envisages annual water utilisation of 119 thousand Million Cubic Feet (TMC). Recently, the revised estimate of the Upper Krishna Project Stage-I has been cleared by the Planning Commission at the cost of Rs. 1215 crores approximately. The Karnataka State Government has not finalised and sent the Upper Krishna Project Stage-II to the Centre for appraisal.

#### **Issue of Commemorative Postal Stamps**

1280. **SHRI RAM KAPSE:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the procedure followed by the Government for issue of commemorative postal stamps in the country?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):** A Philatelic Advisory Committee functions to advise the Government regarding issue of commemorative postage stamps and other related matters. Proposals for issue of commemorative stamps received from various sources are examined in

consultation with the Philatelic Advisory Committee and with reference to the prescribed guidelines. Issue of a limited number of commemorative stamps is approved during an year keeping in view the guidelines, recommendations of the Philatelic Advisory Committee and various other factors. In exceptional cases decisions are also taken with the approval of the Minister for Communications.

#### **Telephone Facility to Villages of Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana of Bihar**

1281. **SHRI KARIYA MUNDA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide telephone facility to all the villages of Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana of Bihar in near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to provide telephone facilities in village Panchayats during Eighth Plan and the remaining villages in the Ninth Plan.

[Translation]

#### **Execution of Soviet Technician by ULFA**

1282. **SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the kidnapping and subsequent execution of the Soviet technician Gritchenki by ULFA militants of Assam;

(b) if so, the efforts made earlier by the Government to secure his release; and