

Emission of Helium Gas From Hot Spirit at Bakreshwar

*599. SHRI RADHIKA RANJAN RAMANIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the emission of Helium gas from the Hot Spring at Bakreshwar in West Bengal is due to the cold fusion;

(b) if so, whether the Government have constituted a team of scientists to study this phenomenon;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to tap the whole of the Helium gas emitting therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Emission of helium gas from hot springs happens at many places in the world including at Bakreshwar in West Bengal. There is no evidence for ascribing it to cold fusion.

(b) Work in recovering helium gas from Bakreshwar has been an ongoing project for some time now. There is no reason to study cold fusion phenomenon at Bakreshwar.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A team is already working at Bakreshwar and other hot springs sites in West Bengal to collect helium gas.

[Translation]

Central Public Sector Undertakings in Maharashtra

*600. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have identified those Central Public Sector Undertakings which are not functioning satisfactorily in Maharashtra during the last two years; and

(b) the reasons for the same and the steps taken by the Government to improve their efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) 8 out of 28 Central Public Sector Enterprises having their registered Offices in the State of Maharashtra have incurred losses during the last 2 years, i.e. 1989-90 and 1988-89 upto which period only the information is available.

(b) The reasons attributable to losses by public sector enterprises are escalation in input costs, low capacity utilisation, out-dated plant and machinery, shortage of power, excess man-power, high incidence of interest on outstanding loans, demand variations etc. Improving working of Central Public Sector Enterprises is a continuous process. Enterprise specific action is taken by the concerned administrative Ministry/Department and the enterprise to improve the performance. Some of the measures taken are modernisation and rehabilitation plans, financial managerial and organisational restructuring, change in product-mix, energy conservation, technological upgradation, signing of MOU with the Government, etc.

Public Distribution System in Adivasi Areas of Bihar

*601. SHRI BHUVNESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI KARIA MUNDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Adivasis living in forests