

(c) and (d). Under the news Trade Policy, while imports of primary copper against EXIM Scrips have been allowed, the small scale units have been permitted to import against supplementary licences with free foreign exchange.

Assistance to Iran for Development of Agriculture

4538. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran has sought the Indian assistance for the development of agriculture in that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any mutual agreement has been reached between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof:

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV SINGH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Iran desires cooperation with India in the field of agricultural research and training involving exchanges of scientists and experts, higher education facilities for Iranian students and experts in various disciplines in India, technology exchanges, collaborative research projects, and exchanges of publications and research materials.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding between Iran and India for cooperation in the field of agricultural research and education was concluded at Tehran on 11 November, 1991.

Pipeline from Haldia to Barauni

4539. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to implement the project proposal of laying a pipeline from Haldia to Barauni; and

(b) the details of the cost escalation of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b). Indian Oil Corporation is examining various options in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG Agencies in Orissa

4540. SHRINANI BHATTACHARYA: SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any representation from the Members of Parliament regarding allotment of petrol pumps and LPG gas agencies in Jagmohanpur, Bramnival and Ghotegoan in Keonjhar District of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b). Representations are received regularly for opening of petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies in different places of the country including those in Orissa. The oil companies on the

basis of the Market Survey, economic viability and product availability include such places in their Marketing Plans.

[English]

Flood and cyclone Relief to Victims in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

4541. SHRI MANORAJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5829 on September 5, 1991 state:

(a) the findings of the magisterial inquiry conducted to identify the irregularities in disbursement of flood and cyclone relief to victims of 1989 cyclone; and

(b) the action taken by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The findings of the Magisterial Inquiry conducted by the Andaman and Nicobar Island Administration have been received. Union Territory Administration is taking follow-up action on these findings in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Short Supply of Coal to Cement Factories

4542. SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cement manufacturers of Tamil Nadu are facing great hardship owing to short supply of coal/lignite;

(b) whether the Government propose to take steps for full exploitation of lignite from Jayankondam in Tiruchur district of Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for adequate supply of lignite to cement industries there?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. There is some shortfall in supply of coal to the cement plants in Tamil Nadu. However, Government have taken steps to provide alternate sources of supply of coal to these cement plants. Coal is being allotted to some of the cement plants in Tamil Nadu from Bengal-Bihar Coalfields for movement by rail-cum-sea route. Every effort is being made to increase movement of coal from WCL. The Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC), Neyveli, had supplied about 4 lakh tonnes of lignite to cement plants during 1990-91 and during the period April-October, 1991 about 3.03 lakh tonnes of lignite has already been supplied to them. In 1991-92, 6.0 lakh tonnes of lignite is programmed to be supplied to cement industry. As per information given by Neyveli Lignite Corporation, they have no immediate proposal to exploit the lignite available at Jaya-Kondam in Trichy District in Tamil Nadu.

New Varieties of Foodgrain Released by ICAR

4543. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR has developed several foodgrain varieties to be grown in the dryland areas in Orissa

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided by the Central Research Institute for Dry land Agriculture, Hyderabad in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C.