

(c) if so, the extent thereof;

(d) whether the Government have enquired into the reasons for such escalation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The construction of civil works of Nathpa Jhakari hydro-electric power project commenced a few months ago. The contract for supply, erection and commissioning of the electro-mechanical equipment has been awarded recently. It is expected that duration of the construction will be about five years.

(b) and (c). The estimated cost of the project has undergone an upward revision from Rs. 1678.02 crores to Rs. 4337.95 crores at March, 1993 price level.

(d) and (e). The revised approved project cost is based on March 1993 price level whereas the earlier estimates were based on September, 1988 price level.

Extradition Treaty with us

156. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the progress made in regard to signing of extradition treaty with the US during the visit of Prime Minister to that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): India and US held one round of discussions on a new bilateral Extradition Treaty in September, 1993. A large measure of agreement has been reached on the text.

The remaining outstanding issues are under examination and review by both Governments. Further negotiations with a view to finalizing the Agreement are expected.

The Joint Indo-US Statement issued during PM's visit to the USA in May, 1994, states that the two leaders noted that the United States and India have begun negotiations on a new Extradition Treaty which they hope to complete in the near future.

Oil Exploration

157. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:
SHRIMATI SHEELA
GAUTAM:
SHRI RAMESHWAR
PATIDAR:

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

(a) whether he had recently visited Singapore;

(b) if so, whether he had made any offer to the foreign investors in the field of oil exploration and development under the Government's liberal economic policy;

(c) whether any discussion has been held with the Government of Singapore in the field of oil exploration; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposals likely to be finalised and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (d). A delegation led by the Minister of State for Petroleum