

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) To attract investment domestic or foreign and thereby speed up the pace of mineral development, the National Mineral Policy, 1993 and the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 as amended in 1994 have opened up all non-atomic and non-fuel minerals for exploitation by Private Sector.

(d) and (e) The Government of India have not entered into any agreement with foreign countries to set up joint ventures. However, the protocol signed with France and the Minutes signed with China during the visit of a high level delegation to China, *inter alia* envisage scouting for joint venture opportunities in the mineral sector in India and in other countries. However, Hindustan Zinc Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines has signed Memorandum of Understanding with two foreign firms for exploration of Gold and base metals.

Setting Up of Power Projects

1901. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up two gas based small power projects in Tamil Nadu in near future with the assistance of private sector;

(b) if so, the number of private parties approached and terms and conditions and location thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) Government of Tamil Nadu (GOTN) have entrusted execution of Pillaiperumal Nallur (3×100 MW) gas based power project in Nagal Quaid-E-Millaid district to Dyanora Group in collaboration with M/s Makowaski of USA. They have intimated that they have also received 16 and 18 proposals for setting up of two gas based power projects of 1000 MW each in the private sector at Gummidipoondi and Vembar in Tamil Nadu respectively. GOTN intimated that they will sign MOUs for these projects with suitable promoters after the evaluation of the offers received.

Arrears of DESU

1902. SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISRA:
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU) owes huge amounts to Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS), National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) and the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) as on March 31, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when these arrears have accumulated and the steps taken to clear the arrears;

(d) whether the Union Government have recently decided to effect a cut from Delhi's plan funds;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any communication has recently been received from the Chief Minister of Delhi protesting against the decision to cut DESU's arrears from plan funds;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the action of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) to (e) According to DESU, the arrears of dues payable by them to BTPS, NHPC and NTPC, for the period prior to 31.3.1989 and from 1.4.1989 to 31.3.1994, are as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

| S. No. | Name of Organisation | Dues prior to 31.3.89 | Dues w.e.f. 1.4.89 to 31.3.1994 | Total dues upto 31.3.1994 |
|--------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | BTPS | 379.35 | 1626.1 | *2005.46 |
| 2. | NHPC | 3.65 | 5.32 | 8.97 |
| 3. | NTPC | 46.31 | 85.94 | 132.25 |

*(excluding interest of Rs. 1409.13 crores claimed by BTPS on over-due bills)

In view of DESU's continuous default towards payment of its dues to Badarpur Thermal Power Station and other organisation, the Govt. decided that the differential amount payable by DESU against current billing for supply of power from BTPS will be recovered from Central Plan Assistance to Delhi for 1994-95 and onwards as a regular mechanism. In pursuance of this decision, Rs. 54.52 crores have been adjusted against DESU's current dues to BTPS from Central Plan Assistance to Delhi in 1994-95.

(f) to (h) The Chief Minister of Delhi has written two letters recently, explaining the DESU's financial position and has requested for keeping this action in abeyance.

[Translation]

Allocation of Wheat to Bakeries

1903. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI RAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an announcement has recently been made by the Prime Minister to provide wheat and wheat flour at cheaper rates to the bakeries/bread manufacturers with the stipulation that the prices of bread would be reduced by the bakeries;

(b) if so, the quantity of wheat allocated during 1994, State-wise;

(c) whether some bakeries have not passed on the