

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The details of atomic power plants under construction are given below:—

Unit	Actual start of construction (first pour of reactor building concrete)	Original/ revised	Criticality/Schedule
Kaiga-1	Sept. 1989	June 1995	June 1996
Kaiga-2	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1996
Rajasthan-3	Feb. 1990	May 1995	Nov. 1996
Rajasthan-4	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1995	May 1997

The Original criticality schedules were revised, consequent on the time needed due to additional regulatory requirements, at the time of actual commencement of construction itself.

(c) There was an incident of a partial delamination of the inner containment dome of Kaiga Unit-1 in May 1994. This has necessitated stoppage of some part of construction work pertaining to the containment structures pending review of the cause of the incident. The work in all other areas is progressing well. The re-engineering and reconstruction of the dome is likely to result in some delay in the completion of all the four units under construction.

(d) The steps being taken to ensure speedy completion of the projects include (i) paralleling of civil construction and mechanical erection works, (ii) higher level of mechanisation of construction activities, (iii) close monitoring, and (iv) reduction of activity duration wherever possible.

Equal Pay for Equal Work

1251. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is a gross violation of the principle of equal pay for equal work in the largest employment generation scheme under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) which got compounded by regional discrimination;

(b) whether there remains a gap of about Rs. 5 at the national level;

(c) if so, whether it amounts to violation of the provisions of the Equal Remuneration Act;

(d) if so, whether the Central Government have taken up the issue with the respective State Governments for taking corrective measures; and

(e) whether any concrete action plan is being considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL): (a) The wages for a category of employment under

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) is the same as notified in the relevant schedule of employment under the Minimum Wages Act. Each State/Union Territory has to notify Minimum Wages for various categories of employment under the Minimum Wages Act either on a time-rate basis or on a piece-rate basis. Where time-rate wage is notified under the Minimum Wages Act for categories of employment then wages not less than minimum time-rate has to be paid to the employees. Where a piece-rate is notified under the Minimum Wages Act, payment is to be made as per the piece-rate with an element of irreducible fall back wage component. Under Section 4 and 5 of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 (Act No. 25 of 1976), a duty has been cast on the employer to pay equal Remunerations to men and women workers for the same work or work of similar nature as well as not to discriminate while recruiting men and women workers. The above provisions of law have been brought to the notice of States/Union Territories for strict compliance. Under JRY, however, no such gross violation of the above Acts have come to the notice of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

(Translation)

Small Agricultural/Cottage Industries in Rural Areas

1252. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan for the promotion and expansion of small agricultural and cottage industries in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated to provide grant and financial assistance through the Banks on priority basis after deducting margin money therefrom; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) An Action Plan for promoting the speedy growth of Khadi & Village Industries etc., based on the recommendations of a High Power Committee, has been prepared. The Plan envisages the creation of 2 million additional jobs during the remaining part of the VIII Five Year Plan, inter-alia, through the implementation of Special Employment Programmes aimed at rural artisans, particular emphasis on thrust areas like leather, food processing, gani oil etc. and through the strengthening of the normal Village Industries Programme by increasing the coverage in clusters.

The Department of Small Scale Industries and Agricultural Rural Industries also proposes to implement a scheme for intensive development of rural industries by selected voluntary agencies/non-governmental organisations in close collaboration with NABARD. A maximum grant assistance of Rs. 25 lakhs per identified voluntary organisations would be made available under the scheme for various purposes viz.