

(b) During the Eighth Five Year Plan (till date), 10 new project proposals for development of towns under the IDSMT Scheme which are in conformity with the guidelines of the Scheme have been received. All the 10 projects covering proposals for infrastructure development have been approved and Central Assistance released for the selected towns as mentioned below:

(Rs. in lakhs)			
S. No.	Year and Name of the town	Approved Project Cost	Central Assistance (1st instalment)
1993-94			
1.	Pilakhua	500.00	40.00
2.	Thana Bhawan	136.87	16.00
3.	Kotdwar	118.87	14.00
4.	Kandhala	100.67	12.00
5.	Sirsaganj	119.65	15.00
1994-95			
6.	Basti	498.20	40.00
7.	Ferozabad	366.13	33.00
8.	Baraut	300.00	36.00
9.	Rampur	392.20	35.00
10.	Budhana	192.20	15.00
			256.00

(c) Under the Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) 62 towns of Uttar Pradesh have been covered from 1979-80 till date and a sum of Rs. 18.29 crores released. The schemes covered include markets and shopping complexes, roads, drainage works, sites and services, bus stands and other infrastructural facilities.

(d) Under the Scheme of IDSMT, since only soft loans are given to State Governments, there is no earmarking for any particular State. Depending upon receipt of project reports conforming to IDSMT guidelines, funds are released. Accordingly, no specific allocation has been earmarked for Uttar Pradesh during 1994-95. The expenditure incurred under IDSMT by the State Government upto December, 1994, for which information is available, is Rs. 26.48 crores.

Foreign Companies in Mining

2926. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain foreign companies have entered into agreements with Public Sector Undertakings for the mining of gold, diamond and uranium, during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have handed over the mica mines of Bihar to an American company; and

(d) if so, the time by when these companies are likely to start mining work in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, the Hindustan Zinc Limited, a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Mines have signed two Memoranda of Understandings, one with BHP Minerals International Exploration Inc. (BHPM) on 26th October, 1994 to conduct grassroot exploration for lead, zinc, copper, gold and associated minerals and the other with Niugini Mining Limited (NML) on 18th July, 1994, for evaluation and development of known gold occurrences in India, if found viable. The Kerala Mineral Exploration and Development Project, a Kerala State Government Departmental Organisation, also signed an agreement on 9th September, 1994 with BRGM, France for exploration and pilot scale mining of placer gold deposits in Nilambur Valley, Kerala.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Shortage of Drinking Water

2927. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :
SHRI TARA SINGH :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the residents of NDMC area and VIP areas in Delhi are facing acute shortage of drinking water;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have formulated plans to provide safe drinking water to the residents of NDMC/VIP areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir. However, some shortage is experienced in summer months when there is a reduction in supply from the Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking of Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

(b) and (c). To make up for this deficiency in summer, NDMC is generating about 20 MLD of additional water from its 103 tubewells and supplying to the consumers.

[Translation]

New Passport Office

2928. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Passport Office at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh;