

[Translation]

Corruption in Ministry

7720. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been reports of corruption in the organisation working under his ministry;

(b) if so, the number of officials against whom action has been taken and the number of those who have suspended from service;

(c) whether the officers found involved in cases of corruption and misconduct are only being transferred from one station to another; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to take stringent action against the corruption officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Reports have been received from time to time regarding corruption prevailing in various passport offices.

(b) During the past 3 years action has been initiated either departmentally or by the security agencies in 31 cases. These cases are at various stages of inquiry, initiation of disciplinary proceedings or at final stage of decisions to impose penalties. 14 officials of the Central Passport Organisation have been suspended during the last three years. Services of two employees have been terminated.

(c) and (d) Transfer in some cases is resorted to if it is found that the continuance of an official at a particular station is likely to prejudice the course of investigation or is otherwise not in public interest. All cases in which allegations of corruption and malpractices have been made and in which there is prima facie evidence of an official being involved are duly investigated and pursued actively and seriously in accordance with the prescribed procedures by the Department or the security agencies. In cases where it is established that an official is guilty either of committing irregularities in the grant of passports or is found to have accepted illegal gratification, a penalty, as prescribed in the rules, is imposed on the guilty official.

[English]

World Bank AID for Power Projects

7721. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has been giving financial assistance to privatise some power projects in the country;

(b) if so, State-wise details thereof;

(c) the details of power projects proposed to be privatised in each State; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (d) International Finance Corporation, one of the arms of World Bank have envisaged interest in investment/lending in some of the private power projects such as Jegurupadu GBPP (235 MW) of Andhra Pradesh, Balagarh TPS (2 x 250 MW) of West Bengal, Zero Unit TPS at Neyveli (250 MW) and Pillaipermai nallur (300 MW) of Tamil Nadu etc. The exact details of investment/lending would be known after these projects achieve financial closure. So far, none of these projects have achieved financial closure.

N.T.P.C.

7722. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power projects of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in the country and location thereof in each State;

(b) the year when those power plants had been set up and the total land acquired for the purpose in each State;

(c) the number of people affected due to the establishment of those power projects, State-wise;

(d) the steps taken for the rehabilitation of those displaced people; and

(e) the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Statement-I indicating the details of power projects of National Thermal, Power Corporation (NTPC), alongwith location and the land acquired is enclosed.

(c) A State-wise statement-II indicating the number of families affected due to commissioning of these power projects is enclosed.

(d) and (e) NTPC has taken a number of steps for the rehabilitation of the displaced/affected people. The displaced persons are provided with free plots in fully-developed resettlement colonies with all infrastructural facilities. For the rehabilitation of affected people in all projects, NTPC carries out a retrofit socio-economic survey, based on which a remedial action plan is worked out. This plan brings about improvement of the available infrastructure in the resettlement colonies and also helps in imparting training to enhance the skills of the affected people to improve their employment opportunities or to enable them