

[English]

Extreme Poverty in Orissa

3047. SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a central team visited the acute poverty stricken districts of Orissa;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to face the situation;

(d) whether a comprehensive programme of land reforms, irrigation, supply of essential commodities, employment, health care and education has been checked out and special allocation of funds made by the Union Government for extreme poverty affected areas; and

(e) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Team found that there was no short term solution to the problem of acute, low and dehumanising poverty of the area.

(c) A Long Term Action Plan of 8 districts i.e. Koraput, Rayagada, Nawarangpur, Malkangiri, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Balangir and Sonepur has been prepared for providing employment and other welfare measures to the people living there. The Long Term Action Plan includes all sectors and all possible income generating activities and social services sections like health, literacy and education.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. A Long Term Action Plan with an outlay of Rs. 4557.03 crores for a period of seven years from 1995-96 has been chalked out to cover the following sectors; soil, water and forest conservation in integrated watershed development, renovation and stabilisation of traditional minor irrigation systems and creating new community/irrigation potential for weaker sections, communication (Roads), rural housing, primary school building, rural health sector, building anganwadi, low cost hostels for tribal students, kanyashram, sevashrams etc. for tribal children, renewable rural energy, feeding and nutrition, safe drinking water, rural sanitation, cottage industries and handicrafts, sericulture and handloom, welfare, dairy and animal husbandry, pisciculture, health, horticulture, agriculture and soil conservation.

[Translation]

Terrorism in J&K

3048. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Most Gul Crosses into Pakistan" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated July 31, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ascertained the veracity of the crossing over the line of control (LOC) and sneaking into Pakistan by the Afghan militant, Mast Gul, the main suspect involved in the destruction of the charar-e-Sherief shrine in Kashmir alongwith 100 of his followers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for not apprehending Mast Gul and his followers?

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) to (d). According to available reports, Mast Gul managed to sneak across the LOC into Pakistan, alongwith some of his associates, sometime in the 2nd week of July 1995. Efforts were made by the various agencies to apprehend him including searches/raids based on information gathered from time to time, but he could not be apprehended.

[English]

Purchase of Compensator Sets

3049. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal of Uttar Pradesh State regarding purchase of four sets of static var compensator from French firm and two sets from M/s BHEL is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the Department of Power, has written to Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance for inclusion of the proposal for imported equipment from France in Indo-French protocol as also for free foreign exchange for BHEL's portion of supply; and

(c) if so, by what time the requisite approval is likely to be granted in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (c). The Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board had proposed to buy four sets of Static Var Compensator from a French firm, for which an amount of FF 96 million was granted, under the Indo-French Protocol signed on the 22nd December, 1992. When the order was placed by the UPSEB on the French firm, the latter refused to accept the order stating that it had reorganised its manufacturing facilities and that part of the equipment was being manufactured in the United Kingdom, for which French assistance would not serve the purpose.

Release of free foreign exchange for BHEL for the remaining two Static Var Compensator was taken up, but, in the meantime, BHEL, in their letter dated 31.5.93, stated that they did not require any release of foreign exchange.

Meat Food Products

3050. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to liberalise meat food products in order to enable large industrial houses to have their quality control; and

(b) 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Desert Development Authority

3051. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up a Desert Development Authority to tackle the problem of desertification in the country;

(b) is so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Besides Various poverty alleviation programmes,

the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment has been implementing the Desert Development Programme (DDP) as a special area development programme for the development of desert areas in the country. The programme is in operation since 1977-78. Considering the severity of the problem at hand, the coverage of DDP has now been expanded to include more areas. The programme contents have been revised to implement the programme on watershed/index catchment/cluster of villages basis with active involvement of the people in the project areas. The annual allocation to the programme has also been considerably enhanced. For execution of DDP and various other rural development programmes adequate institutional arrangements in the form of Zilla Parishads/DRDAs are already working quite effectively in the DDP districts. With these arrangements it is considered that the works relating to development of the desert areas would be better looked after by the local institutions close to the people rather than a National Level of state level Desert Development Authority.

Technology Park

3052. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kerala has the unique advantage of first Electronics Technology Park;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering the request of the Kerala Government for setting up of a National Institute of Computer and Allied Technology; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARODO FALEIRO) : (a) Electronics Technology Park is the only one of its kind and, has been established by the Government of Kerala.

In addition, the Department of Electronics, Government of India, had also set up Software Technology Park at Thiruvananthapuram for providing infrastructure and services to the software exporters.

(b) and (c). The Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development propose to set up a National Institute for Computer and Allied Sciences in the name of late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The location of the proposed institute has not been decided.

Central Hospital in Sundergarh

3053. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :