

(A) Prime Objectives

Generation of additional gainful employment for the unemployed and underemployed persons both men and women in the rural areas.

(B) Secondary Objectives

- (i) Creation of sustained employment by strengthening rural economic infrastructure.
- (ii) Creation of community and social assets.
- (iii) Creation of assets in favour of rural poor particularly the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SCs/STs) for their direct and continuing benefits.
- (iv) Improvement in the overall equality of life in the rural areas.

[English]

Function of Shellers and Hullers

1157. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an attempt to remove compulsion of shellers and allow hullers to function;

(b) the action being taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) whether the Government are aware that shellers are not practical in backward areas where population is sparse and distance is more?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c). A bill to repeal the Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 1958 has been introduced in the Parliament. The bill seeks to provide for a person to instal a rice sheller or huller in any area including backward areas, without a licence.

A.D.B. Assistance for Port Development

1158. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain port development projects are under implementation with loan assistance from the Asian Development Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the funds obtained for the purpose; and

(c) the progress made in the completion of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following ADB loans have been obtained for port development projects:-

(i) Loan No. 1016-IND amounting to US Dollars 129 million in respect of "Second Port Project" consisting of six schemes of Bombay Port namely Replacement of Pir Pau Oil Berth, Replacement of Outer Lock gate at Indira Dock, Replacement of Fire Float Sheetal, Replacement of Caisson gate at Merewether and Hughes Dry Dock, Modernisation of Ship repair facilities and the Vessel Traffic Management System. This loan also includes a scheme for development of Kakinada as a deep water Port. The loan is valid upto 31.12.1996.

(ii) Loan No. 1181-IND amounting to US Dollars 285 million in respect of "Coal Port Project" consisting of one scheme of Madras Port for creation of a Satellite Port at Ennore and another scheme of Paradip Port for creation of mechanised coal handling facility is being utilised. The loan is valid upto 30.6.1998.

(c) Out of the six schemes pertaining to Bombay Port, three schemes have been completed and two schemes are in various stages of progress. The contracts in respect of one scheme are at various stages of finalisation. As regards Kakinada Port Project, the works are in advanced stages of completion. In respect of loan No. 1181-IND Madras Port Trust has started the process of pre-qualifying the tenderers in respect of certain components of projects like Break Water Construction, Wharf Construction and Rock quarrying. Besides, the Paradip Port is in the process of award of tender in respect of various items for procurement of mechanised coal handling facilities such as stackers, reclaimers and ship loaders. The contract for dredging is also at an advanced stage of finalisation.

[Translation]

Corruption in Distribution of Compensation

1159. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had sent an inquiry team to Bhopal to inquire into a complaint of corruption in distribution of compensation in connection with Bhopal Gas Tragedy;

(b) the names of the members of this enquiry team and the details of main points to be inquired by the inquiry team and the points so far inquired by the team;

(c) whether the said team has submitted any interim or final report;

(d) if so, the salient features of the report; and

(e) the next action proposed to be taken on the basis of observation made by the team?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRIO): (a) to (e). The Hon'ble Supreme Court passed orders on 12.10.95 for appointment of a Committee under the Secretary of the Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee with two more lawyers to visit Bhopal, examine the facts and submit status report to the Court. The Committee has since submitted its report to the Court and the matter is sub judice.

[English]

Driving Licences

1160. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal regarding streamlining and modernising the procedure for issue of driving licences for automobiles and heavy vehicles with a view to ensure high and uniform professional driving skill to avoid dangerous trend of ever-increasing operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure uniform procedure and standard in issue of driving skill all over the country, on the pattern of other advanced countries to bring down drastically the rate of accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). No, Sir. The Motor Vehicle Act (1988) and the Central Motor Vehicle Rules (1989) already provide for a procedure for issue of driving licences for all categories of vehicles and the procedure aims at high and uniform professional driving skills. The responsibility for proper implementation of these procedures lies with the State Transport Authorities and the Government have been impressing upon the State Governments from time to time

that the procedures be streamlined and made perfect.

Illegal Mining in Maharashtra

1161. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal mining has been going on in Devbhog diamond mines and other mines of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop this illegal mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Steel Plants of SAIL

1162. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the plants under the Steel Authority of India Limited are suffering losses continuously since the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the factors responsible for their losses; and

(c) the locations of such plants and the comparative annual losses suffered by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir. Most of the plants under the Steel Authority of India Limited are not suffering losses continuously since the last three years;

(b) and (c). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Jalkari Hydrel Power Project

1163. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in implementation of Jalkari Hydro Electric Project in Bihar;

(b) whether construction work on this project is likely to be started soon;

(c) the number of families likely to be affected by this project and whether any scheme has been formulated for their rehabilitation;