

- (iii) Calls for cessation of external support to militant violence.
- (iv) Welcomes steps taken by the Government of India to improve transparency.
- (v) Urges the Government of India to redouble its efforts to establish a political process in Kashmir.

The same position, more or less, applies for countries in West Europe who are not members of the European Union.

(a) A continuous dialogue is being maintained with East European countries to ensure their continuing support on issues relating to Kashmir. During high level interactions, bilateral talks and at international fora, every opportunity is taken to explain to the countries of West Europe India's stand on the Kashmir issue. This has also been conveyed on different occasions by Prime Minister, External Affairs, Ministers Minister of state for External Affairs, Foreign Secretary, etc. In interactions with US officials, India's position that Jammu and Kashmir is an inalienable and integral part of India has been reiterated. Government have also explained the steps that have been taken for resuming the political process in Kashmir, including holding of elections to the State Assembly, so as to ensure the right of Indian citizens in that State to a representative and democratic Government. The US Government have indicated that they are in favour of elections as a means to involve the people in decision-making.

Indian Missions abroad have been provided with complete information, including in published and audio visual form about the historical aspects of the Kashmir question, details of evidence of Pakistan's direct involvement in arming, training and financing terrorists in India, including in Jammu and Kashmir, etc. This material is used by Indian Missions to brief local Governments, opinion and decision makers as well as the media. Resident foreign diplomats have been regularly visiting Jammu and Kashmir as has the international media. The Government has assisted in logistic arrangements for some of these visits. Many of these dignitaries have met arrested militants and mercenaries who have informed them about their training, indoctrination for Jihad, and arming by Pakistan. Delegations of Parliamentarians, non-governmental eminent persons who have visited countries in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Central Asia have enlightened interlocutors there not only about the correct historical facts but also about the present day situation resulting from Pak sponsored terrorism. There has been widespread appreciation of Government of India's policy of transparency and its determination to restore the democratic, political process through the medium of elections while dealing firmly with terrorism.

Employment in Rural Areas

2200. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the new programmes launched to provide more employment in rural areas during the current year;

(b) the details of achievements upto November, 1995; and

(c) the expected assessment for the year 1996-97 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) to (c). No new employment programmes have been launched in rural areas during the current year.

Barpole Hydro Power Project of Karnataka

2201. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the long pending BARPOLE hydro electric project which has a power potential of 450 MW is proposed to be taken up in the near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) No proposal for Barpole hydro-electric project of Karnataka envisaging power potential of 450 MW has been received in the Central Electricity Authority.

(b) Does not arise.

Bailadila Iron Ore Mine

2202. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether procedural problems have stalled prove into Bailadila 11-B iron ore mine deal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure that interests of public sector unit are not undermined to favour a private firm ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). Ministry of Steel has not received any communication about any probe into matters relating to Bailadila 11-B Iron Ore Project.

Financial Position in Sick SEBs

2203. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the state-wise details of losses suffered by SEBs during last two years;

(b) whether the Government have advised SEBs to privatise its various functions of production and distribution;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any Central Committee has been formed to monitor the privatisation process so as to keep it transparent; and