

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAJ PATEL): (a) and (b). Supply and distribution of power to various districts/city of a State is a responsibility of the State Government/State Electricity Board. Central Government supplements the State Government's generation by supplying power to the State Grid from the Central generating units. Various measures taken to improve the availability of power in Uttar Pradesh include maximizing the generation from the existing capacity, implementation of renovation and modernisation programme, reduction in T and D losses, effective load management and energy conservation measures and assistance from neighbouring States/system.

Coal Burnt in Rourkela Steel Plant

3293. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the stock of M.V. coal imported from Australia and Canada and stored at stockyard at Rourkela Steel Plant has been burning since 1993;

(b) if so, the quantum of imported M.V. coal burnt till date and its value;

(c) the efforts made by the Government so far to extinguish the fire; and

(d) the action Government have taken/propose to take against the persons responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No imported coal has been burning in Rourkela Steel Plant.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Development of Ports

3294. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has made any suggestions in regard to development/privatisation of ports and port trusts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A large number of suggestions have been made by the World Bank with regard to Indian Ports. As regards development, the World Bank has recommended modernisation of Port facilities at various major Ports in the country, conversion of multi-purpose terminals into container terminals

wherever necessary and development of multi-purpose facilities as well as rehabilitation and re-equipping more recent general cargo berths. The report has also suggested that operations in each terminal should be integrated with a view to have the same operator in charge of stevedoring, shore-handling, storage and delivery and that customs procedures should be rationalized. The report also recommends that Port facilities/services can be leased out to the private sector.

Highway Sector Policy Package

3295. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance has not approved the Highway Sector Policy package formulated by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of the package sent to the Ministry of Finance; and

(c) the main objection raised by the Ministry of Finance in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c). There is no Highway Sector Policy package formulated by this Ministry. However, the National Highway Act has been amended to entitle the private sector to collect and retain fees at such rates for services or benefits rendered by him having regard to the expenditure involved in building, maintenance, management and operation of the whole or part of National Highways. This has also been accepted by the Ministry of Finance.

Cheating of Indian Companies

3296. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian Companies/Organisations which were cheated by foreign companies in their business transaction during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the amount involved therein; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to solve the problems of Indian Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Uniformity in Allotment of Funds in DRDAs

3297. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether allocation of funds to DRDAs/Zilla Parishads is uniform;

(b) if so, the average allocation of funds per year to each DRDA/Zilla Parishad in Kerala;

(c) whether any control is exercised by the Union Government on the income/expenditure by DRDA/Zilla Parishad; and

(d) if so, the details of procedure adopted for monitoring utilization of funds by DRDAs/Zilla Parishads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OR RURAL EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) and (b). Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) are major poverty alleviation programmes being implemented by the Centre in various States/UTs, including the State of Kerala. These programmes are implemented at the grass root level through DRDAs/Zilla Parishads in various States. In case of IRDP, funds to the DRDAs are allocated on the basis of number of blocks at uniform rate in each district. However, in the case of JRY the allocation of funds from the State to the districts are made on the basis of index of backwardness formulated on the basis of equal weightage to the proportion of rural SC/ST population in a district to total SC/ST population in the State and inverse of Per capita production of agricultural workers in that district. Based on the available information during 1994-95, the average allocation of funds to each DRDA/Zilla Parishads in Kerala comes to Rs. 72.72 lakhs for IRDP and Rs. 438.54 lakhs for JRY.

(c) Yes, regular progress reports and audit reports are asked for by the Union Government from DRDA/Zilla Parishads.

(d) Constant and regular monitoring of utilisation of funds by DRDAs is done by State Governments as well as by the Centre through periodical progress reports. Besides, Senior Officers from the Ministry also inspect DRDAs for qualitative progress of physical and financial achievements.

Bakreswar Thermal Power Station

3298. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had sought any clarifications from the Government of West Bengal in regard to Bakreswar Thermal Power Station (BTPS);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the clarifications submitted by West Bengal;

(c) whether the Government have examined these clarifications;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present stage of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (e). Ministry of Power is in correspondence with West Bengal Government and West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd. with regard to tender evaluation of main plant package of Bakreswar Thermal Power Station.

[Translation]

Power Supply to Agra

3299. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of objections raised by the Central Electricity Authority on the project worth rupees 172 crore submitted by Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board for constant and uninterrupted power supply to Agra and proposals to the protected area of Taj;

(b) whether the objections raised have been cleared by Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board;

(c) the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded to this project by C.E.A.;

(d) whether the Government have taken up the issue with Asian Development Bank for raising necessary financial resources for the project; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c). Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board had included certain approved schemes in their proposal for improving distribution system in the Taj Trapezium area to ensure better power supply. On the advice of CEA, such schemes have been excluded and the project now has an estimated cost of Rs. 99.45 crores. The cost of project being less than Rs. 100 crores, approval of CEA is not required for the project.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Expansion in Activities and Sphere of Power Finance Corporation

3300. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has decided to offer bill discounting facilities and loan syndication for the private sector developers promoting captive or independent power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the PFC also propose to expand its activities and clientele so as to become a full fledged specialised financial institution especially offering financial support to the foreign power developers setting up power projects in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;