

(d) The gas-based power project at Ramgarh, with an installed capacity of 3 MW, proposed by the Rajasthan State Electricity Board had been accepted by the Planning Commission for inclusion in the State's VI Five Year Plan.

(e) to (g). The issue of pricing of gas all over the country for various uses is under Government's consideration.

Disparity in Investment by Union Government etc. in different Regions in the Country

1348. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what is the investment of the Union Government and public sector undertaking and financial institutions in the western Region in 1972-77 and 1978-83 periods *vis-a-vis* in Eastern and Central Regions during the same periods, regionwise details thereof;

(b) the reasons for disparities, if any; and

(c) the details of efforts made to bridge the gap ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The statewise investment in Central Public Enterprises is available in the Public Enterprises Surveys of the respective years placed on the Table of the House every year.

As regards the investment of Union Government and Financial Institutions the information is not readily available regionwise and the efforts involved in collection of these voluminous information will not be commensurate with the benefits to be obtained therefrom. Further, the investment decisions are not based on considerations solely with a view to striking a Regional balance ignoring all techno-economic and other considerations.

Declaration of Raigarh as "No" Industry District

1349. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Raigarh district in Madhya Pradesh is a backward and no industry district;

(b) if so, the reasons why the above district has not been declared 'No Industry District'; and

(c) the steps taken to set up industry in that district ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Raigarh District in Madhya Pradesh has been industrially backward and included in Category 'C'.

(b) Only the districts having no large or medium scale industry as in 1979-80 have been identified as 'No Industry Districts'. Raigarh Districts does not fulfil this criteria.

(c) Industrialisation of specific districts is primarily the responsibility of State Governments concerned. Central Government, however, supplements their efforts by providing various concessions/incentives for industries in identified backward areas. Entrepreneurs setting up industries in Raigarh District which is a Category 'C' district are entitled to preference in the grant of Licences, Central Investment subsidy @ 10% subject to a maximum of Rs. 10 Lakhs which is raised by 5% subject to a maximum of Rs. 15 Lakhs in case the industrial unit is certified as Nucleus Plant, Concessional Finance facilities, etc. as contained in the booklet "Incentives for Industries in backward Areas (Central Government and Central Financial Institutions) April, 1984" read with this Ministry Press Note No. 14/2/83-DBA-I dated 9-4-85, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

Transaction in U.S. Dollars for HBJ Gas Pipeline

1350. SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether tender documents for the Hazira-Bijapur-Jagdishpur gas pipeline specify that transactions should be made in US dollars; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Deterioration of Telephone Service in Karnataka

1351. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to State :

(a) whether Government are aware that the telephone service throughout the country and particularly in Karnataka have deteriorated day by day;

(b) whether it is fact that the complaints from consumers have remained unattended for several weeks despite repeated requests made to the authorities; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The telephone services are generally satisfactory in the country. There is no deterioration of telephone services in Karnataka in comparison to previous year.

(b) No Sir. The complaints are attended to promptly. The average duration for clearing the fault is 3 hours and 36 minutes.

(c) All necessary steps are taken to see that the services are maintained at a satisfactory level.

Packing industry

1352. SHRI P. R. KUMARA-MANGALAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether packaging industry in the country continues to be in its infancy, traditional and outmoded, thereby retarding marketing both within and outside the country, especially in respect of liquids, semi-liquids and more so in the case of perishable products;

(b) whether our packaging is costly and sometimes more than the cost of contents; and

(c) whether the industry is proposed to be developed on scientific lines to ensure that use of paper and wood-based products is eliminated and/or reduced to the minimum in order to save our fast dwindling forests ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) Along with the development of consumer industries, particularly drugs and pharmaceuticals, edible and mineral oils, food and confectionary items, agricultural products, tea, coffee, etc., the packaging industry in these areas is developing to service these industries. Significant modernisation of packaging has been witnessed especially in the last two or three years, in plastic packaging industry.

(b) The cost of packaging is high in the country on account of high cost of raw materials available for the industry.

(c) Efforts are being made to substitute or reduce the use of paper and wood for packing.

Involvement of Private Individuals and Firms in Selling Postal Stamps and Delivering Registered Letters

1353. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHANAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a system has been introduced by which postage stamps are sold in shops and places other than post offices by private vendors and shopkeepers on commission basis;

(b) whether registered articles for delivery are also entrusted to individuals on contract;

(c) if so, the details of these arrangements and commission given to private vendors and parties;

(d) the other areas of postal operations in which the private individuals and firms are involved likewise; and