

STATEMENT

1993-94		
(Rs. in lakhs)		
State	Grant-in-aid	Number of Candidates Trained
Assam	3 173	85
Andhra Pradesh	0.90	25
Maharashtra	1 80	45
Manipur	0.72	25
1994-95		
Assam	5.32	140
Andhra Pradesh	1.936	50
Maharashtra	1.790	50
Bihar	1.00	25
Manipur	2.45	75
1995-96		
Assam	6.564	180
Maharashtra	0.999	25
Tamil Nadu	1.20	30

Bitumen Scam

1764. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has called in the Central Bureau of Investigation to investigate a bitumen scam involving transport companies, State Government officials and public sector oil companies;

(b) the amount involved in this scam;

(c) the main aspects of the scam and the nature of irregularities which resulted in the loss of crores of Rupees to the State Exchequer;

(d) the reasons for an inequitable distribution of bitumen which led to the distortions in transportation and black marketing of the subsidised product;

(e) the outcome of the investigations made by the C.B.I. so far; and

(f) the remedial measures taken to prevent this scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). Based on certain reports from Vigilance set up of the Oil Companies, a special audit was carried out by the Oil Coordination Committee (OCC) and certain irregularities in transportation and distribution of Bitumen in various regions of the country were detected. An involvement of the private transport and State

Government officials and Public Sector Undertakings was suspected and amount involved was considerable. the matter has been referred to CBI for detailed investigation. Special audit report of OCC had indicated that private transporters had claimed payments for transportation of bitumen between various stocking points, which was not actually done. The payment for such claims was made by Oil Companies and reimbursement of the same claimed from the OCC without verification of the actual transportation or otherwise of bitumen.

(d) Bitumen is an allocated product and the State-wise allocation is made by the Central Government based on the assessment of the requirement made by the Oil Companies in consultation with the State Governments and also the historical upliftment of the product by the State Governments.

(e) The report of CBI is awaited.

(f) In order to prevent such scams, the Oil Companies will closely monitor the movement of petroleum products from one location to another.

Earthquake

1765. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for setting up of a high level team to enquire into the causes of earth-quake in Talapally Taluks, district Thrissur in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) On receiving the report of tremors in Thrissur area of Kerala, India Meteorological Department investigated the matter through field survey in 1994-95 when a few minor tremors were recorded and the report was sent to State Government for appropriate action. Another party of IMD is now making field survey in Thrissur area for further study.

Fire in Water

1766. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news-item captioned "Fire in Water" appearing in 'The Sunday Observer of Business and politics' New Delhi dated October 6-12, 1996;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the facts of the matter referred to therein; and

(d) the measures taken by his Ministry to prevent such environmental disasters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Only two minor incidents of fire on offshore rigs have been reported in the last one year.

(d) The rigs are provided with fire extinguishing systems of international standard.

Financial Performance

1767. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted on the financial performance of States and Centre during the Eighth Plan Period;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure satisfactory performance by the States during the Ninth Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). No Sir. However, Planning Commission has conducted a Mid-Term Appraisal of the performance of the Eighth Five year Plan in which performance of the States as well as the the Centre has been reviewed by the Commission. The review showed that the Central Sector outlay would be achieved more or less but there would be some shortfall in the achievement of outlays in the case of States. Copy of the Draft Mid-Term Appraisal of the Eighth Five Year Plan 1996-97 has already been placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) Ninth Five Year Plan is still under formulation.

Navi Nagar Thermal Power Project

1768. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether global tenders were invited for Navi Nagar Thermal Power Project recently; and

(b) if so, the names of the companies which submitted their tenders for the above power project and the name of the company which has been awarded the tender?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., on behalf of Ministry of Power, floated an enquiry for 'pre-qualification' of project

developers for setting up a coal-based thermal power project of 2,000 MW (4x500 MW) capacity at Navi Nagar, through international competitive bidding.

(b) Tenders have not been submitted by the prospective developers so far.

[Translation]

Urban Projects of Maharashtra

1769. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some urban development projects of Maharashtra are pending with the Union Government for its approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all projects have been cleared; and

(d) if not, the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT), the State level Sanctioning Committee is competent to approve IDSMT Projects.

(b) to (d). During 1995-96, the State of Maharashtra was allocated six towns for coverage in 1995-96 and 1996-97 under IDSMT. However, the State level Sanctioning Committee approved projects for 10 towns. Accordingly Central assistance could be released for the first six towns. The remaining four towns : Amaravati, Shahada, Navapur and Kurundwad; though cleared by the State Committee could not be provided Central funds during 1995-96. These towns are in excess of the allocation provided to the State for 1995-96. In view of this, it is not possible to indicate at this point of time when Central assistance would be released to these towns. Release of funds for additional towns during 1996-97 would depend on the availability of surplus funds after meeting the commitments of on-going projects, availability of State share and submission of utilisation certificates by the State Government for the funds released under IDSMT earlier.

[English]

Dispute Between Rajasthan and NTPC

1770. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any dispute between Rajasthan and NTPC in regard to tariff for gas based power stations; and

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