

Vishakhapatnam is the responsibility of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, who get their share of the proceeds of Central Taxes. The question of the Central Govt. earmarking any percentage of Central Tax proceeds etc. for the purpose does not arise.

#### **Clearance Given to Polavaram Project in A.P.**

9027. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the clearance has now been given by Union Government to Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the issues sorted out and which are still being looked into at the Central Water Commission; and

(c) whether these issues stand in the way of according clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c). Andhra Pradesh has been requested to submit a modified project report keeping in view the observations made by the Central appraising agencies.

#### **New Bank of India**

9028. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Bank of India has achieved a landmark with the completion of 50 years of service to the nation as reported in the "Times of India" on 31st March, 1988;

(b) whether the total advances of the Bank increased by Rs. 73.3 crores in 1987 due to improvements in the credit management and employment of an innovative tech-

nique "Leave jumping" for expeditious disposal of loan proposals;

(c) whether the bank was awarded grade "A" for achieving priority sector targets and sub-targets by the Union Government;

(d) if so, the names of other nationalised banks which have achieved progress like the New Bank of India and the names of those banks which are still under progress; and

(e) the details thereof, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) New Bank of India completed 50 years of its banking service in 1987;

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No such awards have been constituted by the Government.

(d) and (e). Overall performance of Public Sector Banks is periodically reviewed on different parameters with a view to ensure effective functioning of the Banks. All public Sector Banks have achieved the target of lending to priority sector

#### **Hike in Prices of Zinc and Nickel**

9029. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) has recently increased its selling prices of zinc and nickel;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the