

projects, in which industry, users and R & D institutions are partners. Besides funding industrial R & D programmes through the HGT scheme, the DST also supports projects in areas such as Development/Upgradation of Instruments, Drugs & Pharmaceuticals and Advanced Materials Development.

- The DBT provides support to Research and Development Programmes for Demonstration and Technology Transfer activities in areas related to biotechnology such as medical biotechnology, human genetics, microbial technology, biochemical engineering, bio-fertilisers diagnostic kits, tissue culture etc. There are 16 task forces and expert committees in DBT to look into the support provided by the Department for their R&D projects in the identified areas and monitor them closely. The DBT has also signed a MOU with the NRDC in October 1995 to jointly transfer DBT developed technologies to industry and also exploitation of technologies developed through DBT funded projects. Under that MOU, 10 international state-of-the-art processes developed in various R&D laboratories/universities with DBT funded have already been assigned to NRDC for commercialisation. NRDC as per its norms of practice, is undertaking a number of activities for commercialising those processes, viz. evaluating the laboratory scale process data for assessing completeness/adequacy or commercialisation, undertaking commercial market survey to assess the size of domestic and foreign market for the bio-technology based products involved, indentifying prospective industrial partners for licencing and commercialisation of those processes and action for patenting the patentable processes both at home and abroad.

Oil Fields

4207. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to build a pipeline network to pool gas from the oil fields of all pockets;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU):(a) to (c). Pipeline networks to pool gas from oil/gas fields are set up as required subject to techno-economic feasibility.

[Translation]

Nathpa Jhakri Power Project

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4208. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of such officers in Nathpa Jhakri Project against whom the allegations of corruption have been levelled;
- (b) the details of total expenditure of Chairman and Managing Director of Nathpa Jhakri Project;
- (c) the details of educational qualifications of these officers;
- (d) the number and names of financing institutes which have financed for this project and the rate of interest charged thereon;
- (e) the names of countries from which machinery has been purchased for this project;
- (f) the cost thereof; and
- (g) the quantum of goods being purchased per month without quotation? *

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) According to the Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation (NJPC), there are four officers working for Nathpa Jhakri Hydroelectric Project against whom allegations of corruption have been made.

(b) An expenditure of approximately Rs. 1.26 lakhs has reportedly been incurred by NJPC on its Chairman and Managing Director on account of his salary and other perquisites for the period April, 1996 to July, 1996.

(c) Three of the four officers against whom the allegations of corruption have been made, possess a degree in Engineering while the fourth has a diploma in Civil Engineering.

(d) The names of the organisations/institutions with whom NJPC has signed the loan agreements and the rate of interest payable are given below :

Name of organisation/institution	Rate of interest payable (per annum)
1	2
1. World Bank (\$437 million) (through Government of India)	16-17%
2. Kfw, Germany (DM 132.068 million)	6.635%