

(c) the cultivable land has become waste during the aforesaid period; and

(d) the new strategies are contemplated to alleviate the present unsatisfactory conditions and increase the pace of reclamation and development of wastelands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No targets were set for development of wastelands at the time of setting of the National Wastelands Development Board in 1985. During the Eighth Five Year Plan an area of 6.9 million hectares was envisaged to be developed with an outlay of Rs. 4020 crores.

(b) During the last three years, 1.90 lakh hectares of land was developed under various schemes of National Wastelands Development Board at an outlay of Rupees 163.12 crores.

(c) The reclamation of wastelands for cultivation is not the mandate of National Wastelands Development Board.

(d) The new strategies contemplated include formulation of Common Guidelines adopting an integrated watershed approach for area based programmes like Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS).

#### Kayamkulam Project

850. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far regarding the Kayamkulam power station in Kerala; and

(b) the details thereof?

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) and (b). Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Project (400 MW) to be implemented by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been accorded government approval based on funding through external commercial borrowings and internal resources of NTPC. However, in view of the availability of funds under World Bank time slice loan, the matter was pursued with them. World Bank has confirmed availability of fund in May, 1996 subject to a satisfactory solution of the mode of fuel transportation. NTPC has agreed to abide by the advice of the consultant appointed for the purpose.

The award recommendations for the main plant turn-key contract for the project have the concurrence of World Bank. The award will be placed by NTPC after

revised Government approval is accorded to the project based on World Bank funding.

Land for the project has been acquired and infrastructural activities at site are in progress.

[Translation]

#### Employment Scheme

851. SHRI BACHI SINGH 'BACHDA' RAWAT : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched any new employment oriented scheme in the backward blocks of the country;

(b) if so, the criterion laid down for selection of such blocks in the hill areas of the country;

(c) whether all hill districts of Kumaon and Garhwal division of Uttar Pradesh have been included under Hill Areas Development Programme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was launched on 2nd October, 1993 in 1752 identified backward blocks situated in drought prone, desert, tribal and hill areas, in which the Revamped Public Distribution System was in operation. The EAS has now been extended to cover 3206 blocks of the country in all States and UTs excluding Goa, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi and Pondichery. The additional blocks include the newly identified Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) blocks, blocks under the Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) and those in the flood prone areas of the country. Under this scheme assured employment for 100 days of unskilled manual work has to be provided to those who are seeking it, during the lean agricultural season.

(b) In the hill areas of the country all those blocks are covered under EAS where the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) is in operation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Rurai Sanitation

852. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had submitted detailed project report on Integrated Rural Sanitation Project (1995) and on JRY;

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) the time by which the funds additional funds are likely to be provided to the State Government to implement the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Project proposal is estimated to cost Rs. 226 crores in 22 districts in Andhra Pradesh for construction of 10 lakh household latrines, 2.5 lakh bathing cubicles, 3.5 lakh metre length of village drains and two camps per village towards awareness camps.

(c) Considering that the total budget under Central Rural Sanitation Programme is Rs. 60 crores only, the State Government was requested to revise the project like adoption of low cost models of sanitary latrines, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) component for creation of felt need/demand, health education and awareness, in order to explore the possibility for external assistance also. This revised project is yet to be sent by the State Government.

#### Employment Opportunities

853. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Employment Generation Schemes have been introduced in different States during the Eighth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details of schemes sanctioned for providing employment in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) are the major employment schemes being implemented by the centre. The scheme of IRDP was launched in the mid seventies as a self employment programme for rural poor in 2300 blocks and later on extended to cover all the blocks in the country with effect from 2nd October, 1980. Under the programme, the target group consists of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans etc. In addition to the above, the programme also provides safeguards to SCs, STs, Physically handicapped persons and women. Similarly, JRY is being implemented w.e.f. 1.4.89. The main objective of the JRY is to provide additional gainful employment to unemployed and underemployed persons in rural areas. Besides, EAS is being implemented w.e.f. 2nd October, 1993. The scheme provides assured employment for

100 days to manual workers between the age group of 18 to 60 years. At present the scheme is being implemented in 3200 backward blocks in the country which are situated in drought prone areas, desert areas, hill areas etc.

#### Power Project in India

854. SHRI PARASRAMB HARDWAJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a leading Japanese industrial house plans to invest nearly 10 billion dollars to set up power project in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

#### Arms to Ex-Servicemen

855. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide arms to the Ex-Servicemen of J and K;

(b) if so, the time by which these are likely to be provided; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c). The State Government have informed that they have already provided arms to some ex-servicemen who have been enlisted as members of Village Defence Committees to strengthen the efforts to combat terrorist violence, particularly in the Doda and Border districts of Jammu region. In Doda and Udhampur district, 200 such Village Defence Committees have been set up so far, which have over 1680 members many of whom are ex-servicemen. More such Committees are in the process of being set up. Ex-servicemen have also been appointed as Special Police Officers as a part of the overall effort to strengthen the security arrangements. In addition, 17 Coys of ex-servicemen have been raised as a part of the local police and are performing various security related duties.