

(b) If so, whether the Government are considering to extend concession to all the hilly areas in the Himalayas as well as in the Western/Eastern Ghats; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is offering capitalised interest subsidy of upto Rs. 1.12 crores per MW for the development of small hydro project upto 3 MW station capacity in the Himalayan & sub-Himalayan hilly regions of Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim; North-Eastern States & Nicobar Islands. Capitalised Interest Subsidy of upto Rs. 38.3 lakhs per MW is also offered for the SHP projects in other regions of the country including Western/Eastern Ghats.

The Higher rate of subsidy, for the SHP projects in Himalayan and sub-Himalayan region, North-Eastern States A&N Islands, as compared to other States, is provided due to difficult terrain and topographical conditions encountered in these areas leading to higher costs of their SHP projects.

Tobacco and Cotton Growers

126. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government had apprised Union Government the plight of tobacco and cotton farmers in the State;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has pleaded more Central assistance;

(c) if so, whether the State Government has also requested the Union Commerce Minister for his intervention immediately; and

(d) if so, the total assistance Union Government has agreed to provide to the State Government to meet the demands of the tobacco and cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Promotion of Fisheries

127. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope for promoting brackish water fisheries in the State of Orissa;

(b) whether the Union Government are providing any assistance to the State Government for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details of such assistance provided by the Union Government to the State of Orissa during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) In coastal Orissa, an estimated brackish water area of about 34,013 hectare is available for shrimp farming, of which about 13,530 hectare is under culture.

(b) and (c) The details of assistance provided by the Government of India to the State Government of Orissa during the last three years is as stated below :

Year	Assistance provided (Rs. in lakh)
1995-96	42.65
1996-97	25.05
1997-98	3.07

Inter-State Water Dispute

128. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the irrigation projects in Orissa which are under the inter-State water disputes;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government and the concerned State Governments to settle the disputes amicably;

(c) whether there is any delay in execution of those projects which have been taken up after clearance of the disputes; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No Irrigation Project of Orissa having Inter-state water dispute is pending with the Union Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Irrigation projects are executed by the State Governments according to their own priority.

Remunerative Price of Coconut

129. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the coconut is not fetching remunerative price due to the import of copra and coconut oil; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The