

Pooyamkutty Hydel Power Project

5798. SHRI P. SANKARAN:
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environmental clearance has been given for setting up of the Pooyamkutty Hydel Power Project in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of terms/conditions under which such clearance has been granted;

(c) whether Government are aware that large areas of forests will be submerged due to this project;

(d) whether any study group/expert team had visited Pooyamkutty to assess the impact of the project on the ecology and environment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the likely time by which clearance will be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The conditions of environmental clearance includes, supply of fuel to labours, protection of forests and wildlife, compensatory afforestation, undertaking of studies of flora and fauna, soil & moisture conservation, rehabilitation and resettlement, reclamation of borrow area.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A study group was constituted under the chairmanship of Prof. M.V. Nadkarni, Institute of Social & Economic Change, Bangalore. It has recommended environmental impact assessment, social impact assessment & social cost benefit analysis studies to be made by state Government.

Grant for Sports Activities in Assam

5799. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the grants sanctioned for sports for the State of Assam last year;

(b) whether there is any proposal for Assam Government to increase the grant for sports activities in the State; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) During 1997-98, total grant of Rs. 42.06 lakh was released to the State of Assam for sports activities/creation of sports infrastructure.

(b) and (c) In the revised scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure, which is expected to be finalised shortly, enhanced assistance up to 75% of the estimate cost subject to certain ceilings, has been proposed for the State of Assam along with some other Tribal/Hilly/Special category States.

Operation Black Board Programme

5800. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Operation Black Board" Programme being implemented in the States is funded by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the mode of fund allocation by the Centre and the States under the programme;

(c) the amount allocated to Orissa for implementing Operation Black Board programme during the last three years. till date; and

(d) the coverage made in that State under the programme so far?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Operation Blackboard is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which funds for appointment of additional teachers and teaching learning equipment in primary and upper primary schools are provided by this Department. Resources for construction of school buildings are provided by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme on a sharing basis between the Centre and States.