

Hydel Power Projects In J & K

170. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of hydel power projects undertaken by National Hydro Electric Power Corporation in J & K State during the year 1998-99;

(b) whether the Government propose to undertake the construction of Baghliar and Sialkote projects through National Hydro Electric Power Corporation so that the infrastructure of Salal could be utilised; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No new hydel power project has been undertaken by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) in J & K State during the year 1998-99.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to undertake the construction of Baglihar and Sawalkot Projects by NHPC as State Government wants to execute these projects under State Sector.

Amendment of Pollution Control Acts

171. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :
SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the existing Pollution Control Acts and frame comprehensive laws on pollution;

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter stands at present; and

(c) the time by which the matter is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) A study is presently underway to integrate the major environmental enactments. The objective is to simplify the existing legislation on the environment and to remove ambiguities, overlapping and other shortcomings.

[Translation]

Employment to Affected People of Bhagalpur

172. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have framed a policy to provide employment to the people of Bhagalpur

district in Bihar whose land has been acquired by the National Thermal Power Corporation to set up a major thermal Power Project at Kahalgaon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of the affected families yet to be provided with employment; and

(d) the time by which the same is likely to be provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) For the rehabilitation of land oustees of Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project in Bhagalpur district of Bihar the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), framed guidelines in 1986 giving them preference in employment subject to meeting job specifications. These guidelines stipulate 100% reservation for unskilled categories and 60% for semi-skilled categories subject to Government directives on reservations of posts for SC/ST.

(c) and (d) The number of families affected due to acquisition of land for this project is 2062. The rehabilitation measures undertaken for the Project Affected Families (PAFs) are as follows :-

(i) A total of 300 PAFs have been employed in NTPC.

(ii) About 200-250 persons are engaged with various contracting agencies.

(iii) 951 petty contracts have been awarded to PAFs till now.

(iv) 14 shops have been allotted to PAFs.

Further, NTPC provides training and technical support to PAFs to improve their skill for employment and also provides help in securing benefits from Governments schemes such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, Integrated Rural Development Programme, etc.

[English]

Cases Pending in Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

173. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has issued notice to his Ministry and the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal on the pendency of lakhs of cases in the Tribunal;

(b) if so, action taken by the Government and the Tribunal thereon;

(c) the total number of cases pending in the Tribunal as on date, the period and the reasons for their pendency;