

Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) and High Sulphur Fuel Oil (HSFO) based power plants in the country, State-wise and category-wise;

(b) whether power plants set up with these fuels have lower shelf life and energy output in comparison to the units using either coal or natural gas; and

(c) if so, the action taken on the conclusions of the study conducted by the Planning Commission in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The Details of the Power Stations run on different types of Oil are as under :

S.No.	Name of Power Stations	State
1.	Pampore GT	J & K
2.	Dhuvran 5-6	Gujarat
3.	Yelhanka D	Karnataka
4.	Bramhapura	Kerala
5.	Narimanam	Tamil Nadu
6.	Maithon GT	West Bengal
7.	West Bengal G	West Bengal
8.	Kasba GT	West Bengal
9.	Chandrapur	Assam

In addition to above existing Power Stations, National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. is implementing Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Project in Kerala, based on Naphtha as main fuel.

(b) The self life of power plant does not depend on the type of fuel used. It depends on the type of turbine installed. Liquid fuel can either be converted as gas or steam to run turbines. A gas run turbine has a shelf life of 15 years whereas a steam run turbine, the shelf life is 25 years, equal to coal based power plant. However, energy output is more in gas based turbine than coal based steam turbine.

(c) Planning Commission has recently taken up a study on computation of cost of generation of electricity with various alternative fuels. The study is yet not finalised.

[Translation]

Scholarships for Studying Abroad

180. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scholarships are provided by the Government to the students going abroad for studying;

(b) if so, the criteria laid down in this regard; and

(c) the number of such scholarships given during 1996-97 alongwith the total amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) The Department of Education does not provide, of its own scholarships to the students for studies abroad. However, the Department receives offers of scholarships and fellowships from a few countries under Cultural Exchange and other Programmes for studies abroad. Nominations against these offers received from the donor countries are being made by the Department. The final selection for awards rests with the donor countries. The selection for nominations is made on the basis of merit by Selection Committee constituted for the purpose.

[English]

Kaziranga National Park

181. SHRI K.S. RAO :
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :
SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :
SHRI KAMALNATH :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI C.D. GAMIT :

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

(a) the number of animals died in Kaziranga National Park and the extent of damage caused to the park due to recent floods;

(b) the estimated number of animals in the park before flood;

(c) the amount sanctioned by the Government for rescue operations and the amount spent out of the allotted amount;

(d) whether there are reports that the amount is not being utilised properly;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the stringent steps taken by the Government to protect this Park?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) As per the reports received from the Director, Kaziranga National Park, 651 animals have died during the recent floods. The floods have caused intense damage to infrastructural facilities like communication, wooden bridges, wireless network, country boats, High lands etc.

(b) The estimated number of Rhinos in the park before flood as per 1995 census was 1250. As per the 1993 census, there were about 5483 animals in Kaziranga.

(c) An amount of Rs. 58.05 lakhs has been sanctioned for the rescue operations and details of utilisation of the amount have not been received from the State Government.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) For protection against poaching in the park, shoot at sight orders have been issued, paramilitary forces have been deployed and help of army is being taken for restoration work.

[Translation]

Fake Marksheets

182. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI
CHAUDHARI:
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether fake marksheets are being issued on a large scale in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether any persons involved in this racket have been arrested during the last one year;

(c) if so, whether any action has been taken against them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Proposal for Cross Country Highway Project

183. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :
SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI T.R. BAALU :
SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to build

cross country highway project linking Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Silcher to Saurashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of States through which this cross country road is likely to pass;

(d) the total expenditure involved in this project and time fixed for its completion;

(e) whether any private participation has been worked out in this project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (f) The Honourable Prime Minister has announced a programme to widen national highways linking Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Silcher to Saurashtra. A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has been constituted to decide the routes and technical parameters thereof. The programme is at conceptual stage and hence no further details can be given at this stage.

Free and Compulsory Education

184. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI
CHIKHALIA :
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
SHRI M. BAGA REDDY :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made a fresh assessment of the constitutional obligation to provide free and compulsory education upto the age of 14;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether difficulties are expected to be experienced in the implementation of this obligation; and

(d) if so, the fresh strategy being contemplated by the Government to meet this objective?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) The Conference of State Education Ministers