

*[English]***Cost and Time overrun of Projects**

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

(a) the projects monitored by his Ministry to check the cost overrun and time overrun, Ministry-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the concerned Ministries to overcome the overrun of the cost and time of these projects; and

(c) the policy formulated by his Ministry to review, monitor and to adopt corrective steps in this regard?

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) As on 30th September, 1997, there were 442 projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above, which were being monitored in the Department of Programme Implementation. The details of these projects are in the Quarterly Project Implementation Status Report, which is available in the Library of both the Houses of Parliament

(b) The projects face various types of problems during the course of implementation. The exact measures taken to ensure speedy and efficient implementation depend on the nature of the problems being faced by the projects. The important measures being taken in general are as follows :

Intensive monitoring of projects at various levels. This enables the monitoring agencies to identify constraints and helps the management in taking remedial measures

In-depth critical review of the progress by the Project Authorities and Administrative Ministries.

Setting up of Task Force/Empowered Committees for speedy finalisation of contract packages, solving land acquisition and other problems.

Close follow up by the Department of Programme Implementation, concerned administrative Ministries and projects authorities with the State Governments, equipment suppliers, contractors, consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays.

Inter-ministerial co-ordination and interaction.

Emphasis on preparation of realistic project implementation plan

Review by the Committee of Secretaries of specific projects facing constraints.

(c) Generally, all major projects costing Rs. 100 crores and above are intensively reviewed every month and specific corrective measures are suggested to the concerned administrative Departments to avoid further delays and cost overruns.

**Conditions of Indians in Gulf**

15. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Committee had recently visited Gulf countries to understand the difficulties faced by the Indians there;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :

(a) A nine members delegation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs had visited Gulf countries from 17-25 October, 1997 to observe the functioning of the Indian missions in the region and held discussions with a cross section of the Indian community to understand the difficulties faced by them.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of External Affairs did not receive any recommendations from the Committee.

*[Translation]***Subsidy to Farmers**

16. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the subsidy given to the farmers during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the farmers have taken the benefits of the subsidy given during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government have taken some major steps for the development of agriculture; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The available information on State-wise subsidies given to agriculture sector relating to irrigation and electricity is given in the statement enclosed.

The subsidies/concessions in respect of fertilizers are not paid directly to the farmers and are routed through the manufacturers/importers. As such, no State-wise allocations are made.

However, the amount of subsidies/concessions given on fertilizers at all India level are given below :

1995-96	6733/-
1996-97	7767/-
1997-98 (RE)	10026/-

The farmers are benefited by these subsidies.