

[Translation]

Pending Central Assistance to Bihar

994. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRAJAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 223.36 crore rupees of Bihar Government for the year 1998-99 under Central Assistance based on formula has been outstanding with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which this amount is likely to be paid to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Formula based Central assistance allocated to the State Governments is released in monthly instalments. For the State's Annual Plan 1998-99, the formula based Central assistance allocated to Bihar is Rs. 1191.76 crore. Against, this allocation, Rs. 786.10 crore has already been released to the State Government upto 1st December 1998 and the balance of Rs. 405.66 crore will be released in the remaining three months, based on the anticipated Plan expenditure figures furnished by the State Government.

[English]

Central Assistances for Developing Hotels in Karnataka

995. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has released Rs. 4.50 crores for developing hotels being run by the Karnataka State Tourism Development;

(b) if so, the details of hotels selected for development in the State with the above Central assistance, location-wise; and

(c) the amount released proposed to be released for the development of these hotels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) Ministry of Tourism has prioritised 14 projects amounting to Rs. 455.30 lakhs for providing Central assistance to the State Government during 1998-99. Out of Rs. 455.30 lakhs, a sum of Rs. 240.30 lakhs is for upgradation of existing hotel projects maintained by Karnataka State Tourism Development. The funds are released on the basis of complete and detailed proposals submitted by the State Government for each project.

(b) and (c) Details of hotel projects prioritised for upgradation and the amount earmarked for each project is given below :-

	Project	Amount proposed (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Bijapur	25.00
2.	Mysore	60.00
3.	Gulberga	67.50
4.	Jog	24.80
5.	T.B. Dam	50.00
6.	Mangalore	13.00
	Total	240.30

Loan by IDBI and SBI to NTPC

996. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

SHRI RAJ BANSHI MAHTO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 470 on 29-5-1998 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Both IDBI and SBI have reported that they released the financial facilities based on the progress of the project and in compliance of the various terms and conditions of the sanction as per the usual practice. The Government had approved the foreign borrowing for the company. Spectrum Technologies, USA based NRIs, have subscribed to the equity of the company in Foreign Currency and subscription from NTPC has become sub-judice in view of the petition before Delhi High Court regarding *inter-alia*, breach of promoters agreement. This is, however, not going to affect future investment in Power Sector.

(c) Does not arise.

Special Category States

997. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for declaring special category State status by the Union Government;

(b) the names of the States and Union Territories which have been categorised as special category States so far with the dates, year-wise;

(c) whether there was any proposals received by the Union Government from any other States in recent years for inclusion of their State in the list of special category States; and

(d) if so, the name of the States and the reactions of the Government thereon?