

integrated projects with value addition upto any intermediate stage foreign equity participation would be permitted upto seventy four percent (74%) through the instrument of joint venture company(ies) with Central/State PSUs such that the independent equity holding of at least one PSU is not less than twenty six per cent (26%) of the total equity.

(c) (iii) In exceptional cases where foreign equity participation above seventy four per cent (74%) is unavoidable, approval will be subject to the clearance of the Atomic Energy Commission.

(d) If monazite is produced in the process of exploitation of beach sand minerals, such monazite shall be disposed of by the entity concerned, at its cost, in accordance with the instructions/directives of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board or any person/body authorised by the competent authority in accordance with the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act and the Rules and Orders thereunder.

(e) The provisions of the Atomic Energy Act and the Rules and Orders thereunder will continue to apply to the exploitation of beach sand minerals, including their import/export, to the extent such minerals are notified as prescribed substances and require licensing under the said provisions. The mining leases under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act will continue to be granted by the State Government(s) concerned.

(f) All cases of foreign direct investment in activities relating to exploitation of beach sand minerals, whether or not such minerals per se are notified as prescribed substances under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, will continue to be processed for approval and regulated in accordance with all other guidelines, norms, stipulations, etc., of the Central Government (Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Finance etc.) and the Reserve Bank of India, to the extent that these other guidelines, etc., are not inconsistent with the guidelines detailed in this policy.

Fund For Upper Krishna Project

3911. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for allocation of funds for Upper Krishna Project during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be approved?

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) to (c) The Government of Karnataka proposed an outlay of Rs. 3371 crores for Upper Krishna Project (UKP) for Ninth Five Year Plan. This outlay consists of Rs. 1450 crore for the Stage I and Rs. 1921 crore for the Stage II of the project. The working group on Irrigation Sector as set up by the Planning Commission for the Ninth Plan and Annual Plan 1997-98 recommended an outlay of Rs.1450 crore for UKP (Stage I) Project for Ninth Plan and in case of UKP (Stage II) Project which, as of now, is an approved project, the working group recommended an outlay of Rs. 1921 crore for Ninth Plan but subject to approval of this project and the decision of the Supreme Court. Accordingly, no earmarking of financial outlay for UKP (Stage II) Project was made by the Planning Commission in the State's Annual Plan (1997-98). However, in case of UKP (Stage I) Project, the financial outlay of Rs. 882.50 crore was earmarked by the Planning Commission in the State's Annual Plan (1997-98).

Samadhan Centre

3912. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop cost effective applications of Electronics for rural and social development including agriculture, watershed development and adult literacy etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to set up more 'Samadhan Centres' throughout the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Electronics under its programme for Application of Electronics for Social and Rural Development sponsors projects to promote cost effective and easy to use applications of electronics in various sectors of rural based activities such as agriculture, post harvesting operations, watershed development as well as socially oriented applications.

(c) and (d) The Department of Electronics has been envisaging the establishment of village Level Information Centres (SAMADHAN CENTRES) which are planned to be set up/executed by NGOs or computer literate villagers. Action has been initiated by an NGO to set up first SAMADHAN CENTRE in the Ramanathapuram Distt. of Tamil Nadu. Many other blocks have shown keen interest to set up such Centres.