

the National Informatics Centre was made operational on 1.11.96 for drawback shipping bills. The import module has been successfully operating since May, 1995 with EDI over NICNET converting the Custom House into a near paperless office.

The export module, as per Customs requirements, incorporates certain important checks on data including Custom House Agent, code, RBI's Authorised Dealer code, and Importer Exporter Code. It is some of these checks which were found to result in rejection of documents during the first 2-3 days of trial operation. After the exporters and their agents got to used to these steps, there were no more data problems and no delays in filling the shipping bills. The advantage of the software is the automatic crediting of drawback payments to exporters' accounts in the Punjab National Bank which is connected to the Custom Computer System.

This is the first Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Project in the country for a Governmental Agency.

The software is fully tested with reference to quality and performance along with the user Department. It is implemented and put into operation only after acceptance of the computer system by the user Department.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Reservation to OBC

3891. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide reservation in promotion to Other Backward Classes to represent adequately in the services under the State; and

(b) if so, whether a Constitution Amendment Bill in this regard is likely to be introduced in the current session of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Anapara Power Project

3892. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :
SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH 'HARDI' :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh contemplating to hand over the A and B Stations of Anapara Power Project to some other agencies/institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund (OECF) of Japan agreed to provide loans to Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e). No formal proposal has been made by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to hand over Anapara 'A' and 'B' TPSs to any other institution. OECF of Japan has not signed/agreed to provide any financial assistance for any new project to UPSEB during the year 1996-97.

ADB Assistance for Karnataka

3893. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sought ADB assistance for the Urban Development Programme in West Coast Districts in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project;

(c) whether the proposed project has been cleared by the Planning Commission;

(d) if so, the districts to be covered under the proposed project; and

(e) the time by which the project is likely to be commenced and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated cost of the project as per the project proposal sent by the Government of Karnataka is Rs. 758 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has cleared the project proposal subject to the condition that the State Government makes adequate provision for the proposed project without diluting their on-going commitments.

(d) The Districts to be covered under the proposed project are Dakshina Kannada and Uttara Kannada.

(e) The Government of India has taken up the matter with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for including this project proposal in the Bank's current/next year programme. It is difficult to indicate the time frame for the commencement and completion of the project as the Asian Development Bank formal approval for taking up of the project has not been received till now.