

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Geological Survey of India has not carried out any satellite survey for gold exploration in Orissa.

- (b) Question does not arise.
 (c) No, Sir.
 (d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Million Wells Scheme in Karnataka

1490. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of wells to be dug in Karnataka during the current year under the Million Wells Scheme;
 (b) the number of SCs/STs likely to get jobs under the scheme; and
 (c) the funds allocated to the State thereunder during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The Government of Karnataka has not furnished the target of Wells to be dug under Million Wells Scheme (MWS) during the current financial year. However, during 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 2915.55 lakhs would be available for the implementation of MWS in Karnataka which includes Central allocation of Rs. 2332.44 lakhs and the corresponding 20% State Share amounting to Rs. 583.11 lakhs.

(b) The objective of MWS is to provide irrigation source and land development, free of cost to the small and marginal farmers belonging to SCs/STs and non-SCs/STs poor people living below poverty line. Not less than 2/3rd of the allocation made is to be spent for schemes benefiting poor small and marginal SC/ST farmers.

(c) The total Central funds allocated to the Government of Karnataka during last three years under MWS is as under :

Year	(Rs. in lakhs) Central Allocation
1994-95	4367.14
1995-96	2332.44
1996-97	2332.44

Availability of more rooms at Rail Yatri Niwas

1491. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to make available more rooms at Rail Yatri Niwas, Howrah by vacating the space which is occupied by the Railway office;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to make space for the conference room at this Yatri Niwas;

(d) if so, whether the condition of the rooms and the fittings of this Yatri Niwas is being considered for improvement; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for proper maintenance of the electrical, civil works and cleanliness of Yatri Niwas, Howrah?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Steps have been taken to improve overall condition of Rail Yatri Niwas at Howrah, including maintenance and up-keep of the electrical accessories, civil works, cleanliness and periodic inspections.

Fast Track Project

1492. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rs. 32,000 crore fast track project moving at snail's pace" appearing in the 'Financial Express' dated 9.7.1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the action taken/proposed to ensure effective steps in removal of snags at operational/field levels for efficient execution of the projects during 1997-98 and project-wise strategies worked out;

(d) the action plan finalised for the project in Maharashtra; and

(e) the present status of pending power project proposals in Vidarbha and particularly in Amravati district in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government of India identified 8 projects for extending its counter guarantee. Out of these fast track projects, counter guarantee has already been issued to Jegurupadu Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) of M/s. GVK Industries in Andhra Pradesh and Dabhol CCGT (Phase-I) of M/s. Enron Power Company in Maharashtra. M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Ltd. withdrew their request for counter guarantee for the Godavari CCGT in Andhra Pradesh. The remaining projects, namely Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (TPP) of M/s. Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd. in Andhra Pradesh. Neveli (Zero Unit) TPP of M/s. ST-