

[English]

Setting up of Power Project

324. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number and details of Power Projects recommended by the Government of Gujarat in public or private sector;

(b) the fuels suggested for these proposed 'Power Projects; and

(c) the number out of these projects to whom fuel linkage has been granted by the Government ?

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) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Use of Energy

325. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India energy consumption large. . ." appeared in the daily 'Statesman' dated 22.5.1997 wherein it is stated that 'India uses energy relatively inefficiently';

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken during Ninth Plan period to meet the growing demand of energy ?

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) and (c) Due attention is being paid to increase the efficiency of use of various forms of energy and to limit the pollution and other environmental fall-outs of energy production, processing, conversion and supply.

Sukhinda Chrome Ore Mines

326. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has recommended for leasing out of Sukhinda's Chrome ore mining area to private sector companies;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have now received the recommendations of the State Government for approval;

(c) whether huge kickbacks have been involved in leasing out the land to private companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the guilty persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mineral Concessions are granted as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. Any decision on proposal of the State Government in the instant case has to be taken in accordance with the judgement dated 4.4.1995 of Hon'ble High Court of Orissa in O.J.C. Nos. 7729/93, 4701/94, 3825/94, 5422/94 and 7054/94 etc. and Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgement dated 23.7.96 in S.L.P. Nos. 10838/95, 11391/95, 11392/95 etc.

(c) As per records available no such information has been received by the Central Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Migration from Western Orissa due to Drought situation

327. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the unprecedented drought situation in Western Orissa and the consequent migration of people to the township in search of employment;

(b) if so, the proposals before the Government to provide job avenues for the rural unemployed persons and to remedy the situation; and

(c) the quantum of funds allotted to Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar to provide job opportunities to the rural unemployed youths during 1995-96, 1996-97 and in 1997-98 so far ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOY-

MENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Comments of the Government of Orissa in this regard are given below :

"Migration of labourers to nearby states in search of better wages is not an unusual feature. Therefore, the allocation that the people have migrated due to Government's failure to provide them work is not correct. A large number of employment oriented works are under execution in drought affected areas of the State through anti-poverty programmes particularly Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme in addition to labour intensive works executed with Calamity Relief Fund.

The State Government is quite alive to the situation prevailing in the State and has taken all steps to

prevent migration & starvation deaths. Adequate employment opportunities have been created through massive launching of labour intensive works. Provision of Gratuitous Relief, Emergency feeding, Old Age Pension, Widow Pension, disability pension and various other feeding programmes have also been made".

(c) The quantum of funds allotted (central allocation) to Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 under the wage employment programmes viz. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS); Self Employment Programme viz. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM); and Rural Housing Scheme viz. Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) are given below :

(i) JRY & EAS (Rs. in lakhs)

	JRY			EAS (release)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Orissa	24514.35	11274.49	12597.20	11460.00	16427.55	3164.58
Madhya Pradesh	40895.57	17611.61	19677.78	22940.00	22670.17	4722.25
Bihar	62878.54	27260.46	30458.60	16230.00	21245.00	4570.00

(ii) IRDP & IAY (Rs. in lakhs)

	IRDP			IAY		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Orissa	3381.92	3381.92	3993.81	7873.25	7195.91	6534.30
Madhya Pradesh	5282.69	5282.69	5457.47	14172.99	11240.56	10207.08
Bihar	8109.12	8102.12	8377.41	21349.01	17398.92	15799.23

(iii) TRYSEM (Rs. in lakhs)

	(Central release)		Recurring Expenditure
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (upto July 31,97)
Orissa	202.47	199.51	100.92
Madhya Pradesh	505.57	360.40	189.45
Bihar	424.99	248.30	17.80

Railway Projects

328. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the railway projects for which foundation stones were laid and inauguration ceremonies held since the inception of the United Front Government;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon so far on advertisements in various news papers, Printing of posters making arrangements for each of the foundation and inauguration ceremonies;

(c) whether there is any outstanding payments to be made on accounts of (b) above.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these outstanding payments are likely to be cleared ?