

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) On completion of the alleged ISRO espionage case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have filed a final report before the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Erankulam, praying for discharge of all the six accused persons, as there was no espionage involved. The CJM, in his order dated 2.5.1996, agreeing with the report of the CBI, discharged all the six accused.

Subsequently, however, the Government of Kerala have issued Notifications withdrawing the consent accorded to the CBI for investigating the alleged espionage case and ordered a further investigation in the case by the Kerala Police. The decision of the Government of Kerala for further investigating the case has been upheld by the Kerala High Court.

Three of the accused persons in the case and the CBI have separately filed special leave Petitions in the Hon'ble Supreme Court challenging the judgement of the Kerala High Court. The matter is presently sub judice.

Liquified Natural Gas Base

1921. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has submitted any proposal by Union Government for setting up a Liquified Natural Gas Base at the sea-shore of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

UPSC Examinations

1922. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Public Service Commission proposed to hold examination in regional languages;

(b) if so, whether priority will be given to those taking examination in the official language (Hindi); and

(c) whether some additional per cent would be given to candidates belonging to non-Hindi speaking States ?

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. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) The Question of introduction of all the Indian languages included in the VIIIth schedule to the constitution in the examinations conducted by the UPSC was examined by Dr. Satish Chandra Committee. Its recommendations are still under examination. As the issues are important and have evoked diverse reaction. Government's effort is to arrive at a consensus.

(b) and (c) In view of (a), does not arise.

[English]

Capart

1923. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projects being undertaken under the CAPART in Orissa for the last two years;

(b) the amount sanctioned and actually released for those projects during the above period; and

(c) the achievements made so far from these projects in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) During the last two years, i.e. 1994-95 and 1995-96, CAPART has sanctioned 211 projects to voluntary organisations in Orissa covering the programmes/schemes of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP), Promotion of Voluntary Action in Rural Development (PC), Organisation of Beneficiaries (OB), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and Advancement of Rural Technology Scheme (ARTs). During this period, the amount sanctioned and the amount released to voluntary organisations in Orissa by CAPART was Rs. 791.80 crores and Rs. 504.00 crores respectively. The sanctioned projects are at various stages of implementation.

Joint-Venture Power Project

1924. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation is proposing to set up 500 MW thermal power plant as a joint venture project with the APSEB at Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the capacity and total cost of expenditure involved in setting up this power project;

(c) whether the project is to be based on residual produce from the Viskhapatnam HPCL unit as a fuel; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : (a) yes, Sir.

(b) The capacity of the proposed plant is 500 MW. The total cost of the project would be known after the Detailed Project Report for the project is finalised.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The time of commissioning of the project would be known after the project has obtained necessary statutory and non-statutory clearance/inputs and achieved financial closure.

Investment in Oil Sector

1925. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give substantial autonomy for the upstream oil companies and suggested to give the boards of oil and Natural Gas Corporation and Oil India Limited complete autonomy to take investment decisions;

(b) if so, whether the Government has agreed to this proposal;

(c) the details of the same; and

(d) by what time the Government is likely to give its final decision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) No decision has been taken by the Government to give complete autonomy to ONGC and OIL to make investment decision.

Generation of Power

1926. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the North Eastern Electricity Power Corporation is not being able to complete the power projects entrusted upon it for execution according to the plan-budget due to paucity of fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the generation capacity and demand of power in the region at present; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortfall of power in the region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The requirements of funds of North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) for executing its power projects are being fully met. The Plan allocation of

Budgetary Support and the funds actually released to NEEPCO during the 8th Five Year Plan is indicated below:

(Rs. in crores)		
years	Allocation of Gross Budgetary Support to NEEPCO	Amount Actually Released.
1992-93	100.00	128.00
1993-94	225.00	287.60
1994-95	381.01	467.51
1995-96	350.12	366.82
1996-97	141.40	171.40 (proposed)

NEEPCO has commissioned six units (200 MW) of Assam Gas Based Power Project at Kathalguri and one unit (50 MW) of Kopili Hydroelectric Project 1st Stage Extension in Assam in the last two years.

(c) and (d) During the period April, 1996 to January, 1997 as against the requirement of 4033 million units of all North Eastern States, energy availability was 3583 million units representing 11.2% shortage. In order to reduce this gap in the North Eastern Region, measures taken, inter-alia, include maximizing the generation from the existing capacity, reduction in transmission and distribution losses, effective demand management and energy conservation measures and assistance from Eastern Region to North Eastern Region. Sanctioned schemes with a capacity addition of about 1030 MW are presently under implementation in North Eastern Region and the full benefits from these schemes are likely to be available during the 9th Plan period.

Counting of Service Period

1927. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether service rendered by a Central Government employee as an employee in Public Sector Undertaking prior to joining Government service is counted as service for the purpose of calculating pension and other benefits to a Central Government employees;

(b) whether service rendered in Nationalised Bank, which is also a Public Sector Undertaking, is not counted for the purpose of calculating pension and other benefits to such a Central Government employee; and

(c) If so, the reasons therefor ?

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. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No Sir.