

to Government of West Bengal for Darjeeling hill areas under surveys and study for the following programmes:

- (a) Comprehensive survey of current status of the source of pollution and other threats posed to the preservation of the natural lake systems of senchal and Mirik by Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.
- (b) Comprehensive Health and Beneficiary Needs assessment survey in Hill areas under Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.

Payment of Minimum Wages

4945. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) in Visakhapatnam has contested Waltair Railway Division for not paying minimum wages to the porters in Railway Parcel Division as reported in 'Newstime' dated March 20, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to compensate the porters under the minimum wages act?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The news item appearing in 'News Time' dated 20th March, 1997 pertained to the press conference held by RLC (C), Hyderabad on 19th March, 97 at Visakhapatnam, to give wide publicity for enforcement of statutory minimum wages. The case regarding payment of minimum wages to porters of railways in Waltair Division was taken up before the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad and on whose direction, the railway administration agreed to pay minimum wages to porters. However, the matter on certain related issues is *sub judice*.

Drinking Water Scheme in Andhra Pradesh

4946. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the drinking water supply scheme will be taken up in 10 districts of Andhra Pradesh with financial assistance of the Government of Netherlands;

(b) if so, the total amount the Netherlands Government has agreed to provide to the State Government for implementing the scheme; and

(c) the districts proposed to be covered under the Scheme and the total amount required for its implementation?

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) No such scheme has been received by this Ministry from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. As per available informations, the Nalgonda District Water Supply Project of Andhra Pradesh was posed by the Deptt. of Economics Affairs to the Government of Netherlands for assistance in November, 1990, but was not finally approved.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Private Power Projects

4947. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide any concession to private power producers for expansion of power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of power projects running in Gujarat in which concession is proposed to be given to the private power producers;

(d) whether the Union Government have issued any directives to the State Governments in this regard particularly to Gujarat; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) The Government of India have formulated a general policy for attracting private sector participation in the power sector and, in the tariff notification dated 30.3.1992, as amended from time to time, set forth the principles for determination of tariff from generating stations in the private sector. This notification applies to all States, including Gujarat. In a circular letter issued to all the States in January, 1997, the Government have decided that for extension to projects being implemented by Independent Power Producers (IPPs), regardless of the route through which the IPP was selected for setting up the initial phase, the Memorandum of Understanding (Mou)/ Letter of Intent (LoI), etc. route, with selection of the EPC/turn-key contractor through the international competitive bidding route, may be followed.

Power Projects in Kerala

4948. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some power projects from Kerala are pending with the Central Electricity Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of projects cleared by the Central Electricity Authority during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government have taken any initiation to provide the World Bank loan to the State for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) As on 31.3.1997, no proposal for setting up power projects either in the public sector or in the private sector, received from the Government of Kerala, is pending with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for techno economic clearance.

(c) Two power projects namely DG sets at Brahampuram (5x20 MW) and DG Sets at Kozikode (6X20 MW) have been given investment approval during the last three years.

(d) and (e) No proposal for World Bank loan for these projects has been received by the Government.

Survey of IMF

4949. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to survey conducted by International Monetary Fund a higher saving rate is required in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to encourage higher saving rate in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) According to the IMF Staff, the Domestic Savings Rate has shown an uneven upward trend over the past four decades, and according to projections, private savings are likely to rise only gradually over the years ahead. They noted, however, that policies that would boost the rate of increase of savings—particularly public savings—and facilitate its efficient allocation, would contribute towards achieving the Government's growth target of 7% over the medium-term. They also noted that higher growth would initiate a virtuous circle in which higher growth would lead to higher savings, and higher savings to higher growth, and so on.

(b) and (c) Even before the observations of the IMF staff, Govt. of India have emphasized the above aspects in various fora, e.g. in the latest Economic Survey and in the Budget Speech. In particular, the budget Speech of 28.2.97 clearly highlighted the importance of capital markets in boosting savings, while the Economic Survey indicated that recent reform efforts encouraged savings by expanding the savings and investment opportunities rather than by giving special incentives.

[Translation]

Beautification of Bihar

4950. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN DAS alias PAPPU YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds provided by the Union Government to the Government of Bihar for the beautification of the State during 1996-97;

(b) whether the Government of Bihar has utilized all the funds provided to them;

(c) whether some amount out of the allocation for 1996-97 is still unutilized; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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) No funds are provided by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for beautification of States.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

SAIL

4951. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Banks and Financial Institutions have provided over Rs. 5000 crores to Steel Authority of India Ltd.;

(b) whether any irregularity has been committed while providing the said amount;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) is presently availing working capital credit limits from a consortium of 16 member banks. In addition, banks have sanctioned term loan to part finance the expansion/modernisation of Bokaro steel plant. However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

(b) RBI has reported that no irregularity has been noticed by it during post-sanction scrutiny of the credit limits under Credit Monitoring Arrangement.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

CAT

4952. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Public Undertakings and Autonomous Bodies of the Central Government which have been brought under the jurisdiction of the Central Administrative Tribunal;

(b) whether the Government propose to bring the cases of the State Government employees also under the jurisdiction of the Central Administrative Tribunal; and

(c) 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 PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 (AT Act) provides for setting up of a State Administrative Tribunal by the Central Government on a request from the concerned State Government to cover the cases of its employees. At present State Administrative Tribunals under the AT Act have been set up in the States of Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal.