

been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Capacity addition slippages to worsen power shortage" appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 16th October, 1996.

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified the factors responsible for massive slippages during the current plan period;

(c) if not, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps Government propose to take to check slippages and to improve power situation in the country?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The general and broad factors contributing to the delays in the implementation of power projects have been delays in taking up of infrastructural and enabling works, paucity of funds, delays in placing orders of generating equipments and in award of contracts for civil works/erection of equipment, delayed deliveries and non-sequential supplies, contract failures, law and order problems and natural calamities like floods, land slides etc.

(d) In order to ensure the timely commissioning of power projects which are under execution, Ministry of Power and the Central Electricity Authority are closely monitoring the progress of these projects and rendering timely assistance, wherever required, by taking up the matter with the concerned authorities.

DESU

82. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some proposals/representations for formation of "Delhi Vidyut Board" in the capital and handing-over 'DESU' to the State Government of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be materialised?

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 (c). The Government of Delhi had requested for the delegation of powers of the State Government under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 for taking steps, inter alia, to constitute a State Electricity Board for Delhi. The Government approved the delegation of powers of a State Government under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and Indian Electricity Act, 1910 to the Lt. Governor of Delhi. The Ministry of Home Affairs, is taking necessary further steps in the matter in consultation with Ministry of Law and Justice.

[English]

LPG Bottling Plant

83. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a LPG Bottling Plant for Ladakh to be set up at Leh has been sanctioned by the Government in the year 1995;

(b) whether land for the LPG Bottling Plant has also been given possession by the State Government to the IOC a couple of years back; and

(c) if so, whether the work on this project is likely to be started and the reasons for the delay in starting the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The land which was taken in 1992 by TOC for J&K Government near Leh (Ladakh) for construction of POL Depot, is now to be used for construction of LPG Bottling Plant. However, in addition to this land, additional land is required to be taken from J&K Government. Action for early take over is in progress.

(c) The work at project site is expected to commence in June'97 when the road will re-open. The land take over is expected to be completed ahead of June, 1997. The tendering process for this project has already commenced.

IDSMT Scheme in Bihar

84. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of small and medium towns recommended by the Bihar Government for being developed under IDSMT;

(b) the total number out of them which were taken during 1994-96;

(c) the number of towns which are proposed to be taken under this scheme in the State during 1996-97; and

(d) 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) From 1979-80 till 1996-97, proposals duly recommended by the Government of Bihar for development of 44 towns under the IDSMT Scheme conforming to the Scheme Guidelines, have been received.

(b) Out of these 44 towns, seven towns were covered under IDSMT during 1994-96.

(c) 9 towns were proposed by the State Government for inclusion under IDSMT during 1996-97.

(d) The towns proposed are: Gaya, Sapaul, Forbesganj, Lohardaga, Sheohar, Madhopura, Raxaul, Araia, Khagaria.

Labour Oriented Food Processing Industries

85. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Food Processing Industries can be developed as Labour oriented industry in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken any effective steps for developing Food Processing Industries as labour-oriented industry in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether certain institutions are working for the development of Food Processing Industries in the country; and

(f) if so, the names thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (f). Considering amongst other aspects, the high employment generating potential in food processing industries with comparatively lesser investment. Government have taken steps to encourage investment in this sector, liberalised policies for investment including foreign investment, removal of restrictions thereon, as well as on capacity expansion, technology acquisition etc.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has formulated and is operating various plan schemes for the overall development of this sector. Under these schemes financial assistance is provided to State Government Organisations, Voluntary Organisations, Cooperative Agencies, Joint Sectors etc. The broad objectives are for setting up or enlarging processing facilities, developing backward linkages with farmers and, market support for various food processing sectors including meat & fish processing, setting up of cold chain, research & development, food packaging, and training of manpower.

Development of Calcutta

86. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kailikata Nagarik Sammelan, submitted a memorandum to the then Prime Minister in December, 1995 on over-all development of Calcutta;

(b) if so, whether any action has since been taken thereon; and

(c) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In connection with implementation of projects benefitting Calcutta Metropolitan area, the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment has released an amount of Rs.18.08 crores during 1995-96 and Rs.9.00 crores during 1996-97 so far to Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Infrastructure Development in Mega Cities. Regarding enhanced allocation of funds for the Calcutta Mega City project the matter has been taken up with the Planning Commission at the level of Minister of State of Urban Affairs & Employment.

North-Eastern Council

88. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the North-Eastern Council has so far failed to live up to its expectations in fulfilling the aspiration of the people of the region;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the fund allotted by North Eastern Council to different States in the Last three financial years; year wise and State wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to reorganise the N.E.C. to make it more effective; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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. ALAĞH) : (a) to (e) The North Eastern Council (NEC) has been set up as a regional planning body primarily for the balanced development of the North Eastern Regions. Many of NEC projects have inter-state ramifications and are executed by Central Public Sector Units/organisations. It is, therefore, not possible to quantify the funds allotted to different States. NEC supplements the efforts of State Governments and is not expected to meet all the needs of the region. Some of the projects of NEC have suffered time and cost over-runs for various reasons including delays by implementing agencies, difficult terrain, infrastructural bottlenecks etc. The matter regarding restructuring of the NEC has been engaging the attention of the Government.

Space Technology

89. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Canada have agreed to extend cooperation in the field of space technology;