

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) CPWD has taken up works of augmentation and provision of fire safety arrangements, to conform to the requirements of the Delhi Fire Safety Act, 1986 and the rules framed thereunder, in high-rise buildings maintained by them which have deficiencies. In addition, departments/offices occupying buildings have been advised to ensure fire safety through periodic inspections, paying particular attention to areas which are potential fire hazards and through proper house keeping.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Delhi fire service is ensuring this aspect before issue of No Objection Certificate for occupation of Government buildings and other public places.

Floor Price for Pepper

1213. SHRI PALA K. M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the longstanding demand from the farmers to fix the floor price for Pepper;

(b) whether the Government propose to fix the floor price for Pepper;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Since major part of the production of pepper is exported, its price stabilisation programme will have to

be considered taking into consideration both domestic and international prices as well as production and internal demand. Already, prevailing domestic prices of pepper are not very competitive in the international market. Any kind of price support operation would further increase the FOB cost of our pepper, making it further uncompetitive and may result in fall in exports.

Production of Alumina Plant at Damanjodi, Orissa

1214. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of Alumina Plant at Damanjodi in Orissa is not upto the target this year;

(b) if so, the reasons for the shortfall; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) During April-June quarter of 1991, the production of Alumina from the Alumina Plant of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) at Damanjodi has been 95.88% of the target of 1,80,000 tonnes.

(b) and (c) The marginal shortfall of 7,400 tonnes is due to one of the calciners being down for routine maintenance during this period. The shortfall is expected to be made good in the July-September quarter of 1991.

Telephone Facilities to Gram Panchayats in Marathwada District of Maharashtra

1215. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to provide one telephone

in each Gram Panchayats by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats in Marathwada District of Maharashtra which have been provided with telephone facility during the Seventh Plan period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) 600.

[Translation]

Issue of Prospecting Licences

1216. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the issue of prospecting licences, prospecting is conducted only in a limited area instead of the areas applied for and the report is also prepared on that basis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the approval of the landlord of the area other than the area required for the prospecting is essential;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Union Government propose to make provisions that approval of only that landlord is essential whose land is required for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) For grant of prospecting licence, no prior prospecting is required.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As per the existing provision of Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, the applicant has to furnish the written consent of the owner of only the private land covered by the prospecting licence.

[English]

Water Resources Projects of Orissa

1217. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Water Resources Projects of Orissa pending with the Union Government;

(b) the reasons for delay in according clearance to them; and

(c) the time by which those are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) The time for clearance of these schemes depends mainly on the prompt submission of satisfactory replies to the observations of the Central Water Commission, resolution of inter-State issues and obtaining clearance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, wherever necessary.