

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

Assistance for Plantation of Oil Palm in A.P.

4690. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend further financial assistance for plantation of oil palm in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to release the funds?

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

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have proposed establishment of oil palm seed gardens, nurseries, extraction units and area expansion programmes.

(c) A sum of Rs. 38 lakhs has been released towards the Government of India share for the establishment of a seed garden and palm oil extraction unit in Andhra Pradesh.

Development Prawn Acquaculture in Andhra Pradesh

4691. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote prawn acquaculture in the abundant brackish waters available along the coast of Bay Bengal in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the incentives so far provided to these farmers who are involved in prawn culture;

(c) whether there is any proposal to allot certain percentage of lands to Scheduled Caste farmers for acquaculture in coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in the Eighth Five Year Plan to develop the prawn acquaculture in Andhra Pradesh?

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

(b) A sum of about Rs. 39.50 lakh has so far been given as subsidy to the prawn farmers in Andhra Pradesh, for prawn farming, under different programmes.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. As per the Order issued by the Government for development of Andhra Pradesh in 1987, 60% of the beneficiaries would be fishermen cooperatives, 20% would be self-employed technocrats and the remaining 20% would be progressive entrepreneurs, for leasing of brackishwater land for prawn farming.

(e) Some of the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for development of brackishwater aquaculture in Andhra Pradesh, during the Eighth Five Year Plan include:

(i) implementation of a World Bank assisted shrimp culture project,

covering a net water area of approximately 1,393 ha. in 4 districts viz. East Godawari, Krishna Nellore and Prakasam at an estimated cost of Rs. 80.80 crore;

- (ii) continuation of implementation of the ongoing programmes for development of brackish water aquaculture both under the State Sector and the Centrally Sponsored Sector;
- (iii) undertaking area development programmes for benefiting the target group in the State Sector;
- (iv) promotion of semi-skilled operators through backyard hatcheries; etc.

Dankuni Coal Project

4692. SHRI RAM NIHORE RAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the Dankuni Coal Project has been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount spent on the project so far;

(d) the estimated percentage of cost escalation as a result of price rise; and

(e) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMA GOUDA): (a) to (e). No, Sir. The project has been physically completed and is in the process of fully commissioning. Commercial production of gas was started from May '90. The present production of gas by Dankuni Coal Complex project is around 3 million cft.

per day against the rated capacity of 20 million cft. per day. The full commissioning of the plant is dependant on the acceptability of the committed quantity of gas by the Greater Calcutta Gas Supply Corporation – an Undertaking of the State Government of West Bengal. The capital expenditure on the project is Rs. 126.36 crores up to November, 1991. The revised cost of the project has been estimated as Rs. 135.37 crores against original cost of Rs. Rs. 49.27 crores.

Patent Rights for Seed Breeding Technology

4693. SHRI BHOGENDR A JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an adverse impact of patentisation on seed breeding technology was one of the main points discussed at a National Workshop held in New Delhi on November 26, 1991.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government to the demand for patent rights for seed breeding technology by the multi-national companies at GATT talks and Intellectual Property Rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) (a) and (b). National Working Group on Patent Laws, a non-government organisation held a workshop on November 26, 1991 on Agriculture, Intellectual Property Rights and other related GATT issues in New Delhi. The Workshop had argued against the adoption of Intellectual Property Rights in the case of plants and animals.

(c) Under the Indian Patent Act, seed and planting materials are specifically exempted. This is the Government stand so