

except for four specific items, abolition of phased manufacturing programme and amendment to the MRTTP Act to facilitate investments.

- (ii) Liberalisation of Export-Import Policy by allowing free access to imported capital goods, value based advanced licensing scheme etc.
- (iii) Rationalisation of fiscal policy especially in the areas of duty structure, corporate taxation etc.
- (iv) Introduction of the Software Technology Park Scheme which seeks to provide infrastructural facilities for small software houses keen to enter the export market. The scheme also gives the flexibility to set up private STPs which can be done by bigger companies taking advantage of the duty free facilities offered for import of CG etc.
- (v) Introduction of Electronics Hardware Technology Park Scheme (EHTP) designed to meet the specific requirements of a globally oriented electronics sector. This would provide a flexible policy environment that would greatly facilitate doing business and making referential access to the vast Indian domestic market as an incentive for export production in the country.
- (vi) Encouraging foreign collaboration for investment and technology. This includes automatic approval for foreign direct investment upto 51% foreign equity in high priority industries and automatic permission for foreign technology agreements in such industries with certain ceiling on payments.
- (vii) Encouragements to NRIs and Overseas Corporate Bodies predominantly owned by NRIs to invest in India. This includes automatic approval upto 100% equity in priority industries.
- (viii) Implementation of a quality infrastructure programme called the Standardization, Testing & Quality Certification (STQC) Programme to promote the quality of Indian electronic goods.
- (ix) Participation in and sponsoring of seminars, exhibitions, business delegation etc. abroad and in India.
- (x) Establishment of a Software Services Support and Education Centre to improve the quality of Indian Software.

Construction of Service Personnel Quarters

1607. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a request from the NDMC for allotment of 1.5 acres of land in DIZ area (Havlock Square) for construction of service personnel quarters, for the Dhobis' (Washermen) has been pending in the Ministry for a long time;

(b) whether this long delay has caused a great deal of frustration amongst the 'dhobis' and also led to illegal encroachments and insanitation in the NDMC; and

(c) the time by which the allotment of land is likely to be made ?

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) to (c) . Allotment of land to N.D.M.C. in DIZ Area has been made vide this Ministry's letter No. J-13019/1/94-LD (USLT) Dated 12.7.1996.

Problems faced by Coastal People

1608. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of pathetic conditions of persons residing near the sea-areas in Mumbai, Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and steps being taken to safeguard their lives and property ?

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) and (b). The State Government of Maharashtra has informed that they are aware of the pathetic conditions of persons residing near sea-areas in Mumbai and that while no study has been undertaken in this regard, certain preliminary works have been carried out by the Housing and Special Assistance Department of the State Government.

(c) As Urban Development is a State subject, necessary steps in this regard are to be undertaken by the State Government. No proposal has been submitted by the Government of Maharashtra for urban development assistance from the Government of India.

Closure of Golan and Lokagan Vallies

1609. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Golan and Lokagan Vallies are not

open for grassing purposes of cattle of Gujjars and Bakerwalas of district Baramullah and Kupwara;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how much grass raising areas (bakes), in the district of Baramullah and district Kupwara has been used for the Gujjar, Bakerwala and local people ?

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) and (b). Yes, Sir. These places fall near LOC and the grazing facility, if allowed, can be misused by militants for egress and ingress.

(c) 18 'Bahaks' in Baramullah District and 10 'Bahaks' in Kupwara District are open to Bakarwals/ Gujjars and local people for grazing purposes.

Arsenic-Free Water

1610. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered the proposal for supplying 'arsenic-free water' for various districts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposals of the State Government accepted by the Union Government; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No such proposal has been received from the State Government of Gujarat.

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

Atomic Energy Commission

1611. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board is answerable to the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to make the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board independent from the AEC;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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) and (b). Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB),

constituted under the Atomic Energy Act (33 of 1962) to carry out regulatory and safety functions envisaged under Section 16, 17 and 23 of the Act, shall be responsible to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and shall send reports periodically to the Chairman, AEC on safety status including observance of safety regulations and standards and implementation of the recommendations. It will also submit an Annual Report of its activities to Chairman, AEC. Appeals against decisions of the AERB shall lie with the Atomic Energy Commission whose decision shall be final.

(c) The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board already enjoys functional independence.

(d) The AERB has the authority to impose restrictions/enforce suspension of the operation of any facility for non-compliance of its directives.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Approval to U.P. Projects

1612. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VARMA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent some schemes to the Planning Commission for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof including their locations; and

(c) the time by which these schemes are likely to be approved ?

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). A Medium Irrigation Project i.e. Patharal Medium Irrigation Project at revised estimated cost of Rs. 31.66 crores located at District Jhansi covering Gross Command Area and Culturable Command Area of 3772 hectares and 3509 hectares respectively has been received in the Planning Commission through Ministry of Water Resources as Irrigation Projects are not directly sent to the Planning Commission. The Project had been duly recommended by Technical Advisory Committee. The concurrence of State Finance Department and other related details to be complied by the State Government are awaited in the matter. As soon as the compliance from the State Government is received, the project will be considered for investment approval by the Planning Commission.

Another Project on Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation costing \$ 100 million to be posed for World Bank Assistance has also been received through Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment. The project is to combine the concept of health