

(d) if so, its broad features; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) Drinking water in eight districts in West Bengal contains arsenic more than safe limits prescribed by the World Health Organisation.

(c) to (e). As per information received from Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, the Government of West Bengal has prepared a perspective plan at a total cost of Rs. 750 crores indicating long term and short term measures to tackle arsenic contamination. The replacement of tubewells by deeper ones, construction of new piped water supply schemes and construction of Sanitary protected Rig Wells and Rain Water Harvesting Structure for immediate relief and establishment of surface water based piped water supply schemes, establishing new spot sources for solving the problem on long term basis are some of the salient features of the perspective plan. The perspective plan includes a project aiming to cover six arsenic affected block of South 24 parganas district based on surface water of river Hooghly at a cost of Rs.228 crores to benefit 13.56 lakhs people. A task force comprising of experts of Govt. of India and State Govt. have been set up under the PHE Deptt. to monitor various activities related to arsenic contamination.

As regards urban areas, no proposal/scheme for removal of arsenic contamination has been received from the Government of West Bengal.

Mega Power Projects

1677. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra for setting up of mega power projects of 2500 MW in the States based on Oman Gas pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith proposed sites; and

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be undertaken?

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) No, Sir.

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

Monitor of Projects

1678. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ongoing projects being monitored by the Government;

(b) the number out of them which have cost overruns of over 50% including their approved cost and now their anticipated cost; and

(c) the details thereof, Ministry-wise?

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) As on 31.3.1996, 401 projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above in the Central sector, were being monitored by the Government.

(b) As on 31.3.1996, 64 projects were having cost overrun of 50% and more with reference to their latest approved cost.

(c) The Ministry-wise number of projects, having cost overrun of 50% and more, is given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

Ministry	No. of Projects with 50% and more cost overrun
1. Atomic Energy	1
2. Civil Aviation	1
3. Coal	4
4. Fertiliser	1
5. I and B	1
6. Steel	2
7. Petro. and Natural Gas	4
8. Power	14
9. Heavy Industry	1
10. Railways	25
11. Surface Transport	9
12. Others (implementation by PWD)	1
Total	64

LPG Agencies

1679. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation has been received

from the State of Kerala for the sanction of Gas Agencies and Petrol/Diesel Pumps to the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation; and

(b) if so, the Union Government's response thereto?

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

(b) As per the existing policy, State owned/controlled Corporations are eligible to apply in response to advertisements under 'Open' category. The criteria relating to income, residence and multiple dealership norms are not applicable to them. State Government has been advised in the matter accordingly to apply against advertisements.

NCR Finance Corporation

1680. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an NCR Finance Corporation; and

(b) 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, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Water Supply and Sanitation

1681. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam submitted proposals to Union Government for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation schemes for financial assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government to that effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The details of the schemes received from the State Government of Assam and their present status are given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of Project	No. of Schemes	No. of Habitations	Estimated cost (Rs. in lakh)	Date of receipt	Status of project
Assam						
1.	Schemes for coverage of no source SC/ST habitations	1	5668	Rs. 2400.00	28.2.95	State Govt. was requested to furnish information on Action Plan status of habitation and water quality data to justify the installation of Iron Removal plants. The information is still awaited.
2.	Project for W/S scheme in Excess iron areas of Wazira and Charaideo Civil sub div. of Sibsagar Distt.	1	82	Rs. 94.59 Lakh	13.2.96	Scheme is under examination.

[Translation]

Industries under R.D.P.

1682. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the number of Women benefited in

Uttar Pradesh through Rural Development Programmes and the percentage of the down-trodden out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : During the year 1965-96 the number of women benefited in Uttar