

Shortage of Currency

5112. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Orissa is facing a serious currency shortage and paralysing normal financial transactions as a result thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been a sudden spurt in demand for cash as compared to previous years presumably due to launching of food for work and other employment programmes and schemes for procurement of Tendu leaves, etc. by the State Govt. to help the people in view of the drought in the State.

(c) Additional funds have been arranged by RBI to its Bhubaneswar office which, in turn, supplies the same to currency chests.

SEBI

5113. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether SEBI has vetted the system called Securities and Authoritative Guarantee programme to clean market of fraud ;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether this system has been based on the signature system in USA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent it is likely to help in minimising the market frauds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. SEBI has informed that it has not vetted any system called the Securities and Authoritative Guarantee Programme.

(b) to (d) Do not arise

Vijaya Bank Frauds

5114. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether frauds involving crores of rupees which took place in Vijaya Bank between the years 1987 and 1992 have been discovered; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against those who were found responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Vijaya Bank has reported that frauds/vigilance cases involving an amount of more than Rs. 1 crore pertaining to the period 1987-1992 were detected by the bank in the following six accounts :-

- (1) Vijaya Video Exports and sister concerns.
- (2) Asia Wire Ropes Ltd. and M/s. Asian Ispat Pvt. Ltd.
- (3) PJ Pipes & Vessels Ltd.
- (4) RKB Herbals Pvt. Ltd.
- (5) Sabson Frieght Containers Pvt. Ltd.
- (6) Saraf Group and Lohia Group of companies.

Central Bureau of Investigation had registered cases in respect of all these accounts. Departmental action has also been initiated in all the cases and punishment has been imposed on 27 of the delinquent officials.

Setting up of a Power Project at Kalve

5115. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received by the Union Government from B.S.E.S. Company to set up a Thermal Power Project at Kalve in Thane District of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No project proposal has been received in the Central Electricity Authority from BSES Company to set up a thermal power project at Kalve in Thane District of Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Southern Gas Grid

5116. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Southern States which have demanded setting up the Southern Gas Grid;

(b) whether the Government has made any positive assurance to Southern States to set up Southern Gas Grid; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) Demands for the Southern Gas Grid have been received from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Kerala.

(b) and (c) The Government have approved in Principle the concept of a Southern Gas Grid to transport gas from the western offshore fields, supplemented by imported natural gas/LNG.

[Translation]

Management Examination

5117. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to Unstarred

Question No. 4063 dated December 19, 1996 regarding 'First Class Managership Examination' and state the details of recommendations/amendment implemented by the Government so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI. M. ARUNACHALAM) : The Committee recommended continuance of the existing arrangements in the matter of (a) retention of the second class and the first class Mine Manager's certificates of competency, (b) passing of examinations in parts, and (c) continuance of the present system of 'Foremen' and Mining Mate Certificate in non-coal mines. These recommendations of the Committee continue to be implemented. The Committee recommended that there should be atleast two examiners in the oral test. This recommendation of the Committee has already been accepted and given effect to.

2. The recommendations of the Committee on the following aspects, which have been accepted by the Government for implementation, require amendment in the Coal Mines Regulations 1957, Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961 and the bye-laws made thereunder :

- (a) Minimum academic qualification for second class Mine Manager certificate.
- (b) Passing criteria for written and oral examination in case of manager's certificate.
- (c) Qualification and experience for Surveyer's certificate.
- (d) Endorsement/renewal of certificates for medical fitness.
- (e) Abolition of lamp check certificate.

Necessary action to amend the regulations and the bye-laws is under way.

3. The following recommendations of the Committee were accepted, with modification for implementation by the Board of Mining Examinations, a body constituted under the provisions of the Act, 1952 :

- (a) Minimum eligibility criteria for second class Mine Manager certificate.
- (b) Conduct of only one mining supervisory certificate instead of two certificates i.e. Mining Sardar and overman Certificate in coal mines.
- (c) Certificate of competency for mechanical/electrical engineers.
- (d) Prescribing of upper age limit for competency certificate.
- (e) Procedure of obtaining gas testing certificate
- (f) Service experience for first class Mine Manager's certificate. The Board of Mining Examinations holds a different view in respect of these recommendations. These are being examined.

N.H.P.C.

5118. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the National Hydel Power Corporation is providing loan facilities to some States ;
- (b) if so, the main purposes thereof;
- (c) the details of loans outstanding against these beneficiary States as on March 1997; and
- (d) the steps taken by the National Hydel Power Corporation for the recovery of such loans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

N.T.P.C.

5119. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation seeks autonomy to take its own decisions in making investment and mobilisation of funds;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to make NTPC a global giant with bright future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of the Common Minimum Programme, Government have identified nine Public Sector Undertakings having comparative advantage to become 'global giants'. National Thermal Power Corporation is one of the nine Public Sector Undertakings. The process to make these undertakings become 'global giants' is a continuous one and measures for it are in the process of being formulated.

[Translation]

Finance Corporation

5120. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have not given adequate financial assistance to the Finance Corporation set up for the Development of minorities;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the amount sanctioned and disbursed annually during each of the last two years; and
- (d) the measures being taken by the Government for disbursement of the total sanctioned amount for the development of minorities ?