

- (b) if so, the reasons therefore; and
- (c) the impact thereof on MMTC who are exporting the iron ore?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) and (c) Does not arise.

Export of Marine Products

3463. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the export of marine products got setback after the Pokhran nuclear explosion;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken to boost the export of marine products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Government to give a boost to the exports of marine products:

- (i) Implementation of various subsidy schemes through Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) for helping the fishery product processing units to produce quality fish and fishery products for exports namely schemes for the establishment of captive peeling sheds, cold storages, mini laboratories, generator sets, flake/chip/tube ice making machines, individual quick freezing (IQF) units and procurement of refrigerated trucks, equipment and machinery for modernisation and for export of value added products etc.
- (ii) A scheme has been sanctioned for subsidising a portion of interest charged by the banks/ financial institutions on loans taken by the fishery product processing units for upgradation of their facilities.
- (iii) The threshold limit for zero import duty under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme has been reduced from the earlier Rs. 20.00 crore to Rs. 1 crore for the import of essential machinery and equipment by the fishery product processing units.
- (iv) Fishery product processing units having Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) system have been made eligible for grant of an additional 5 percent Special Import Licence (SIL).

- (v) The Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for the export of fish and fishery products have been notified.

- (vi) Production of Shrimps through aquaculture has been encouraged by MPEDA by extending subsidies for the development of new aquaculture farms and shrimp hatcheries.

- (vii) Necessary guidance and training is also being provided to aquaculture farmers on scientific methods for sustainable eco-friendly aquaculture for increased production of shrimps.

- (viii) Various training programmes have been conducted by the MPEDA and Export Inspection Council for the various officials connected with fishery product processing units and for the Seafood Industry, on the implementation of HACCP system and for maintaining high standards of food hygiene and safety.

Visakhapatnam Power Project

3464. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the finalisation of the Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) of Hinduja's 1040 MW Visakhapatnam Power Projects is lying pending for a long time;

- (b) if so, the details of the project and the hitches coming out in finalisation of the FSA;

- (c) whether any concrete measures have been taken to remove the hurdles;

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

- (e) the time by which Fuel Supply Agreement is likely to be finalised and the construction work of the Visakhapatnam Power Project would commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) A Coal Supply and Transportation Agreement between Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) and Hinduja National Thermal Power Co. Ltd. (HNPCL) has been initialled between the two parties in April, 1998, with a few outstanding issues. Inter-alia these issues relate to the bearing of the consequential risks on the transportation part of the contract as well as issues relating to termination costs. These are under discussion.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. On several occasions issues have been considered and the decisions arrived at, at the High Power Board constituted by the Government to consider matters relating to IPPs. Where necessary, decisions of the Cabinet have also been obtained.

- (e) The outstanding issues are expected to be resolved within a month. As per the Agreement, the Vizag