

*[English]***Closure of Regional Office of MECL Calcutta**

2284 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:  
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move to close down the regional office of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited/MECL, Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BIAS): (a) and (b) Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL) has no Regional Office at Calcutta. However, one of the five Area Offices of the Company is located at Calcutta, the other four being at Nagpur, Hyderabad, Ranchi and Jaipur. The Committees constituted by the Government of India to suggest measures for revival of MECL had, *inter-alia*, recommended that in order to restructure the Organisation in a two-tier system as against three-tier structure, as a first step, all Area Offices should be closed and Project

Managers should report directly to the headquarter. This recommendation of the Committee has not been implemented so far, although some staff redeployment has been effected on administrative grounds.

**Million Wells Scheme**

2285. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made in Million Wells Scheme implemented since January 1, 1996;

(b) the details of the amount spent, State-wise; and

(c) the results achieved therefrom, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Since MWS became an independent scheme w.e.f. 1.1.1996, a total number of 246842 wells have been constructed at total expenditure of Rs. 1188.45 crores.

(b) and (c) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

*State-wise amount spent and wells constructed since 1.1.98 under Million Wells Scheme*

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Amount spent	No. of Wells constructed
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6940.67	26882
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	120.34	323
3.	Assam	2608.11	5383
4.	Bihar	15275.98	51028
5.	Goa	23.58	88
6.	Gujarat	3014.99	6875
7.	Haryana	366.75	1189