

Year	Funds released for wage employment under NRY (Rs. in lakhs)	Mandays of work generated (in Lakhs)
1995-96	67.70	1.36
1996-97	67.70	0.85
1997-98	28.54	0.57

Under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana Central funds amounting to Rs. 171.51 lakhs was released to Assam under urban wage Employment Programme (UWEP) component, whereas under the Urban Self employment Programme (USEP) central funds amounting to Rs. 251.65 lakhs were released during 1997-98.

Laying of New Railway Lines in Andhra Pradesh

1376. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

	NAME OF PROJECT	REGION	PRESENT PROGRESS
i.	Nandyal-Yerraguntla	Rayalaseema	This is an ongoing work for which Final Location Survey has been completed. Land acquisition papers and plans are under preparation. The actual work would start as soon as land is made available by the State Government.
ii.	Peddapalli-Karimnagar Nizamabad	Telangana	The work has been under-taken in phases. In the first phase between Peddapalli and Karimnagar earthwork and work on bridges is in good progress. This phase is presently targetted for completion within the 9th Plan. Work on the second phase of the line from Karimnagar to Nizamabad will be taken up after completing the first phase.
iii	Macherla-Nalgonda-Raichur	Telangana	The work has been included in the Supplementary Demands for Grants, 1997-98 and will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.

[Translation]

Export of Steel

1377. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new policy to boost the export of steel; and

(b) if so, since when and the details of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Government has recently set up a Steel Exporters Forum under the Chairmanship of Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel whose main objectives inter-alia include:

i) Support, protect, maintain, increase and promote

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the rail connections in the entire Telengana and Rayalseema regions in Andhra Pradesh is extremely poor and seriously affecting the development of the region;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any Plan to lay new rail lines in Andhra Pradesh and particularly in the above regions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) The Government have taken up the development of rail infrastructure in these areas through the construction of following new lines:

export of iron and steel by such methods as may be necessary or expedient.

ii) Identify potential export markets through intensive market and economic studies and develop products to meet specific demands in the international market.

The other measures taken by the Government from time to time to facilitate exports include:

i) Full convertibility of export earnings at market rate of exchange;

ii) Facility available to Exporters to import their requirement of raw material duty free under the advance Licensing Scheme;

- iii) Refund of the duty paid on any imported or excisable material used in the manufacture of export goods;
- iv) Exemption of export earnings from income-tax under section 80 HHC; and
- v) Enhancement of duty credit rates under the Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme of most of the iron and steel items to encourage export of iron and steel.

Expenditure on Fuel by A.I.

1378. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India had spent more than original estimates on fuel during the current financial year;
- (b) if so, the actual amount spent on fuel vis-a-vis the estimated amount;
- (c) the reasons for making this additional expenditure; and
- (d) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Air India's fuel expenditure during 1997-98 was Rs. 649 crores as against the budget estimate of Rs.794.38 crores.

- (c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Incentives to WLDP

1379. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are considering of giving some incentives including tax relief to motivate the corporate sector for taking up Wastelands Development Programme ;
- (b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be finalised;
- (c) whether some Wastelands Projects of Rajasthan State are pending with the Union Government for clearance;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the same are likely to be cleared;
- (e) whether the Government are considering revising the cost per hectare of Wastelands Development Programme

in view of the geographic condition and adverse climatic condition of the State;

- (f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) A Central Sector Investment Promotional Scheme (IPS) was launched during 1994-95 to channelise/mobilise financial resources from financial institutions, banks, corporate bodies etc. for development of Wastelands in non-forest areas belonging to Central and State Governments, Panchayats, Village Communities, private farmers etc; however on the basis of recommendations of Standing Committee of Parliament for Urban and Rural Development, the scheme is being restructured and likely to be finalised shortly.

(c) and (d) Under the Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Wastelands Developments Project (IWDP), Out of three pending proposals received from the State Government of Rajasthan for two projects, additional information from Rajasthan is awaited and that the 3rd project is under processing. The sanction of these projects will depend upon the response of Rajasthan State and other aspects such as viability and conformity with the guidelines and availability of budgetary resources and hence time frame could not be indicated.

(e) to (g) As per the common guidelines on Watershed Development of Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, the provision of cost per hectare for wastelands development programme is Rs.4000/-; however the State Watershed Programme Implementation and Review Committee is empowered to enhance the cost norms for the geographic locations which are subject to adverse climatic conditions.

Urban Local Bodies.

1380. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 1137 on 30.7.97 and state:

- (a) the names of the Urban Local Bodies in Scheduled Areas of Orissa;
- (b) whether there was some omission of the names of the Notified Area Committees and Municipalities located in Scheduled Areas of the State;
- (c) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (d) the priorities and programmes undertaken by the Union Government and State Government to develop these