

### Heavy Water Plants

1143. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of heavy water plants being run in the country and performance of each plant during the last three years;

(b) whether the country is self sufficient in heavy water at present ;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to export heavy water and to set up new heavy water plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUDHARA RAJE) :

(a) There are eight heavy water plants in the country of which seven are in operation and have performed generally well during the last three years. Operation of one plant located at Talcher in Orissa had to be suspended since 1994 due to non-availability of the feedstock. (ammonia synthesis gas) from the nearby fertilizer plant of the Fertilizers Corporation of India Ltd. with which this heavy water plant is integrated.

(b) to (d) The present level of production and availability of heavy water in the country is such that apart from meeting the domestic demand for nuclear power generation, it is possible to also offer some quantities for export as and when such opportunities arise. Actual export, however, depends on competing price bids. Some export orders for heavy water standards of various concentrations have been executed in the past and shipment of 100 metric tonnes of heavy water has recently been made. In view of the foregoing position, there is no need for additional heavy water plants at present.

### Sardar Sarovar Project

1144. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has stayed the further constructor work of the Sardar Sarovar Project recently ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Gujarat has approached the Union Government for vacation of stay given by the Supreme Court;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government for early vacation of the stay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) In the matter of Civil Writ Petition No. 319/94 filed by Narmada Bachao Andolan in April, 1994 in the Supreme Court regarding Sardar Sarovar Project, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 5th May, 1995 ordered that for the time being the effective height of the dam would be maintained at EL81.5 m.

(c) to (e) The Government of Gujarat has filed an Interlocutory Application before the Supreme Court on 9.12.1996 seeking permission to raise the effective height of the Spillway portion of the Dam from the present level of 81.5 metre to 85 m. Union of India has also filed an Affidavit on 22.8.1996 alongwith an application for directions with regard to construction of the Sardar Sarovar Dam without any constraint on height as long as it is built in accordance with Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award and requesting modification in the Supreme Court order dated 5.5.1995. While hearing the matter on 3.3.1997, the Supreme Court held the view that no modification in the earlier interim order of 5.5.1995 is called for. The Union of India has also filed a 'Written Submission' on 11.4.1997 pleading that under Article 262 of the Constitution read with section -11 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, the Supreme Court has no jurisdiction to go into the matter arising out of a water disputes. This issue of jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in the matter was referred by the Supreme Court vide its Order dated 29.4.1997 to the constitution Bench hearing the Cauvery matter. However, the issues relating to the implementation of the Resettlement & Rehabilitation measures of the Project Affected Families raised in the petition of the Narmada Bachao Andolan are being heard existing Bench of the Supreme Court. The matter was last heard on 16.4.1998 and has now been listed for further hearing on 13.8.98.

[Translation]

### President visit to Brazil

1145. SHRI RAGHVENDRA SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the President has recently visited Brazil ;

(b) if so, the issues discussed with the Government of Brazil during the visit ;

(c) whether talks for supporting India's permanent membership in UN Security Council were held with the Government of Brazil, and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government of Brazil in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :

(a) The President of India made a State visit to Brazil from 3rd May to 8th May, 1998.

(b) The President of India held talks with President Cardoso of Brazil in the presence of the two delegations. The two Presidents reviewed the progress of bilateral relations between India and Brazil. It was noted that there was scope for further expansion of bilateral relations, especially in trade and economic cooperation in areas like electronics, Computer Software, telecommunication, aviation, railways, steel, pharmaceuticals, traditional Indian medicine, automobiles, motor-cycles, scooters and cycles. Possibilities of collaborations and joint ventures in some of the areas were also discussed. The Brazilian side has shown keenness to obtain fresh genetic material from India for their cattle. About 80% of the Brazilian cattle is from Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. An Implementing Arrangement for cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine under the bilateral agreement on Science & Technology was also signed. A Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of India and the Rio Branco Institute of Brazil was also signed. In the multilateral area, the two Presidents discussed reform of the UN system and expansion of the UN Security Council.

(c) and (d) During the discussions on reform of Security Council, India and Brazil renewed their support for each other's candidature for the permanent seat in the Expanded Security Council as pledged in the Joint Declaration issued at the end of President Cardoso's visit to India in January, 1996. Both countries agreed to work closely together to achieve this objective.

#### **Distribution of River Water**

1146. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether water distribution work in different parts of the country is not working smoothly;

(b) if so, the remedial steps being taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Disputes leading to river water distribution in five river basins were referred to Government of India and in turn Government of India constituted following five tribunals in accordance with the provision of Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 to adjudicate the disputes :

- (i) Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal
- (ii) Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal
- (iii) Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal

(iv) Ravi-Beas Water Disputes Tribunal

(v) Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal

The first three Tribunals have given their final awards. Ravi-Beas Water Disputes Tribunal has given a report on 30.1.1987 & the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has given an interim order on 25.6.1991.

No policy guidelines for water allocation of inter-state rivers have been finalised by the Government.

#### **Pending Projects of Bihar**

1147. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of projects of Bihar are pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, since when these projects are pending with the Union Government ; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

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) No Project of Bihar is pending for action in Planning Commission for investment clearance.

#### **Status of Industry**

1148. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :  
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:  
SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to grant the status of industry to the agriculture;

(b) if so, the manner in which it is likely to benefit to the farmers; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The National Policy on Agriculture currently under formulation envisages a positive trade and investment climate for agriculture at par with industry. The intention is to bestow on the agricultural sector, in as many respects as possible, benefits similar to those obtaining the industry such as easy availability of credit and other inputs, free movements of agricultural products and infrastructural facilities etc.