

Japan. In the financial package proposed by APSEB and the sanction issued by Planning Commission, OCCF funding would be of the order of 85% and the balance 15% would be funded by APSEB from their own resources. The exact fund for the second tranche to be provided by OCCF is yet to be tied up.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The total cost of the project is Rs. 982.64 Crores including IDC of Rs. 167.46 Crores and servicing charges of Rs. 0.97 Crores at 1996-97 price level.

Withdrawal of Benefit from SC/ST Candidates in CSIR

1162. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Scientists and Technical Staff of SC/ST categories were given additional ten marks for the Assessment Promotion in Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) since 1994;

(b) if so, whether the same has been withdrawn; and

(c) if so, the date of its withdrawal and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) As per the revised assessment scheme of CSIR, effective from 1.4.92, relaxation of 10% of the prescribed threshold for normal assessment was admissible to scientific and technical staff of SC/ST categories. This was as per terms of Government of India instructions for considering SC/St candidates with relaxed standards. For the assessments falling due from the assessment year 1996-97 onwards the provision was modified and 10 marks in place of 10% of the prescribed threshold in each case for normal assessment in respect of SC/ST employees was made.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In keeping with Government of India instructions as notified *vide* Department of Personnel and Training order dated 22.7.1997 to withdraw the lower qualifying marks and guidelines for consideration of SC/ST candidates without reference to merit and prescribed bench marks, the matter was placed before the Governing Body of CSIR and it was approved to withdraw the said provision from the assessment year 1997 onwards i.e. with effect from 1.4.1997.

Girls' Education

1163. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps are being taken by the Government to promote Girls' education in the country;

(b) if so, the proposed fund provision made for the purpose during the Ninth Plan Period; and

(c) the amount proposed to be spent in this regard during the current financial year, State/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ninth-Five Year Plan has not been finalised.

(c) There is inbuilt gender based intervention in several schemes like District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), Adult Education, Lok Jumbish Project, Shiksha Karmi Project ect. However, a budget provision of Rs. 100 crore has been made for Free Education for Girls.

[Translation]

Assistance to Hydro Power Projects

1164. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give financial assistance to the Central Hydro Power Projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount estimated to be spent on the said projects; and

(d) the capacity of each such project and the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (d) Policy in Hydro Power Development approved by the Government in August, 1998 envisages that all on-going Central Sector Hydel Project will be provided with full budgetary support till their completion. Government of India would also provide budgetary support for the new projects to be taken up by the Central Public Sector Hydel Undertakings. The details of the

on-going projects are indicated below :

S.No.	Name of the Project	Executing Agency	Latest estimated Cost (Rs. in crs.)	Latest Commissioning Schedule	Expenditure incurred upto Oct'98 (Rs in crs.)
1.	Nathpa Jhakri HE Project (6x250=1500 MW), Himachal Pradesh	NJPC	7666.31	2001-02	3272.68
2.	Tehri HEP St. I (4x250=1000 MW) Uttar Pradesh	THDC	4962.43	2001-02	1753.94
3.	*Ranganadi HEP St.I (3x135=405 MW) Arunachal Pradesh	NEEPCO	1265.02	2000-01	727.48
4.	Dulhasti HEP (3x130=390 MW) Jammu & Kashmir	NHPC	3559.77	March, 2001	2057.62
5.	Dhauliganga (280 MW) Uttar Pradesh	NHPC	1881.49	2004-05	84.93
6.	*Doyang HEP (3x25=75 MW) Nagaland	NEEPCO	671.22	1999-2000	460.34
7.	Rangit HEP (3x20=60 MW) Sikkim	NHPC	361.89	1999-2000	310.53
8.	Tuirial HEP (2X30=60 MW) Mizoram	NEEPCO	368.72	2006-07	3.20

* Ranganadi and Doyang HE Projects are being executed with funds provided by North Eastern Council, Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Policy also envisages advance action for taking up the following projects by the various Hydel Public Sector Undertakings as detailed below :

S.No.	Project	Capacity	Executing Agency
1	2	3	4
1.	Chamera St.II (Himachal Pradesh)	300 MW	NHPC
2.	Parbati St.II (Himachal Pradesh)	800 MW	NHPC
3.	Kol Dam (Himachal Pradesh)	800 MW	NHPC
4.	Teesta St.V (Sikkim)	510 MW	NHPC
5.	Loktak Downstream (Manipur)	90 MW	NHPC

1	2	3	4
6.	Tuivai (Mizoram)	210 MW	NEEPCO
7.	Lower Kopili (Assam)	150 MW	NEEPCO
8.	Kameng (Arunachal Pradesh)	600 MW	NEEPCO
9.	Ranganadi St.II (Arunachal Pradesh)	160 MW	NEEPCO
10.	Koteshwar Dam & HEP (Uttar Pradesh)	400 MW	THDC
11.	Tehri Pump Storage Project (1000 MW) (Uttar Pradesh)	1000 MW	THDC
12.	Rampur HE Project (Himachal Pradesh)	535 MW	NJPC.

It is estimated that for taking up advance action for capacity addition in the 10th Plan, a budgetary support to the extent of Rs. 2000 crores would be required during the 9th Plan Period itself.

Development of a Kit by ITRC

1165. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow has developed free flowing moving analyst kit for conducting bacterial and chemical tests to ensure purity of water;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme to develop these kits on large scale and making them available to rural and remote areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Industrial Toxicology Research Centre (ITRC), Lucknow, a constituent unit of CSIR has developed a vehicle mounted mobile water testing laboratory capable of conducting bacterial and chemical tests to ensure purity of water.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The analysis of bacterial and chemical contamination in water requires detailed tests to be done through diverse equipments, it is not technically feasible to integrate and incorporate these tests in a single portable unit.

[English]

Irregularities in Bakreshwar Power Plant

1166. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued any instructions to inquire into the irregularities committed in tendering Rs. 318 crore Bakreshwar Power Plant in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Forests in Bihar

1167. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD) : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bihar Government has submitted any project for development of forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have cleared this project; and

(d) the steps being taken and proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (d) The State Government of Bihar has submitted schemes for development of forests for financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Following scheme-wise outlay has been fixed for the IX Plan period of Bihar :

(i) Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct Sharing Basis. Outlay—Rs. 1.57 crores.

(ii) Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme Outlay—Rs. 3.19 crores.

(iii) Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Scheme. Outlay—Rs. 6.84 crores.

(iv) Non Timber Forest Produce Scheme. Outlay—Rs. 2.30 crores.

[English]

Amendment to Stamp Act

1168. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Stamp Act to make the Power of Attorney a legal instrument for sale/purchase of immovable properties in order to check evasion of stamp duty leviable thereon; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in the matter and the time by which it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) The matter relating to compulsory registration of