

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(b) if so, whether the same has been withdrawn; and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