

[Translation]

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 Roy & Associates

### Cities Upgraded as a Special Case

1601. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain cities in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and other States of the country have been upgraded by considering them as a special case;

(b) if so, the details of cities upgraded, State-wise;

(c) the criteria adopted for upgrading a city;

(d) the facilities provided to these cities after upgradation; and

(e) the names of the cities of Gujarat and other States which are proposed to be upgraded during the year 1999?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) The following cities have been upgraded for the purpose of regulating House Rent Allowance and/or City Compensatory Allowance treating them as special cases:

(i) *Only for HRA purposes:*

A-1 Class :— Calcutta (West Bengal), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Nava Mumbai (Maharashtra),

B-2 Class :— Shillong (Meghalaya)

'C' Class:— (i) Entire State of Goa, (ii) Union Territory of Daman and Diu, (iii) Alwaye (Kerala), (iv) Patratu (Bihar), (v) Wadhwan & Patan (Gujarat), (vi) Coonoor (TN), (vii) Barabanki (UP) and certain other hill stations.

(ii) *CCA Purposes only:*

B-2 Class:— Jamnagar (Gujarat) and Rourkela (Bihar).

(iii) *For both HRA & CCA purposes:*

A-1 Class:— Hindon Air Force Station (UP) and Gurgaon (Haryana).

B-2 Class:— Jammu and Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir).

Some of the criteria adopted for upgrading a city or town for determining HRA and CCA entitlements are their relative expensiveness, prevailing rentals, availability of accommodation, maintenance of earlier parties etc. and large influx or refugees as in the case of Jammu.

(e) There is no proposal presently under consideration for upgradation of any other city or town during the year 1999.

[English]

### Trade Agreement with Vietnam

1602. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :  
 SHRI ASHOK NAMDEO RAO MOHOL :  
 SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Vietnam have agreed to give fresh impetus to bilateral economic ties and diversify their export commodities to enhance quantum of trade from the current level of \$ 120 million;

(b) if so, whether both the countries have also signed a work plan of cooperation in agriculture during the years 1999 and 2000;

(c) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) During the Ninth session of the India-Vietnam Joint Commission meeting held in New Delhi on 1st February, 1999 both sides agreed to intensify efforts to diversify their respective export commodities and to enhance the quantum of bilateral trade.

(b) to (d) India and Vietnam have signed a Work Plan for cooperation in the field of agriculture research and education for the year 1999 and 2000, at New Delhi on 1st February 1999 under the existing Memorandum of Understanding for Agriculture Research and Education, as was signed between the two Governments on 31.10.1992. The Work Plan provides for exchange of study visits of scientists and experts between the two countries. The following items have been specified for

study visits of Indian scientists to Vietnam; Hybrid Cotton Production Technology, Hybrid Rice Production Technology, Micropropagation in Sugarcane, Water Management Studies under Rice Based Cropping System, Goat Production, Dairy Production/Management, Swine Management and Diseases, Post Harvest and Farm Mechanisation and Fruits and Vegetable Production. The following items have been specified for study visits/training of Vietnamese Scientists in India; Post Graduate Training Programme in Agriculture/Animal Science, Embryo Transfer in Cattle, Goats and Buffaloes, Maize Production Technology, Hybrid Cotton Production, Hybrid Rice Seed Production, Micropropagation of Sugarcane, Fruits/Vegetable Research, Goat Production and Farming System.

The Work Plan provides for technical cooperation between the two countries for Collaboration/Joint Research Programme in the following areas:

1. Development and Testing of hybrid rice under different Agro-eco-system.
2. Development and Testing of coarse cereals under hill and mountain eco system.
3. Evaluation of hybrid cotton/cotton varieties.
4. Studies on the feasibility of goat management for meat production.
5. Exploratory studies on semen processing, embryo transfer etc. in goats, cattle and buffaloes.
6. Studies on fruits and vegetable production.

The Work Plan also provides for the following exchange of Germ plasms and Literature;

*From Vietnam to India*

- Exchange of germplasm of rice, cotton, sugarcane, maize and coarse cereals.
- Exchange of materials of fruits and vegetables, sweet potato, cassava, orange, citrus, lemon, coconut, dioscorea.
- Goats.

*From India to Vietnam*

- Hybrid cotton, coarsecereals, maize, vegetables, mango, manelria, papaya, pineapple, jackfruit, tomato, egg plant, chilli etc.

**Performance of KONEX Project of ECL**

1603. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the KONEX Project at Satgram of Raniganj in West Bengal was undertaken by ECL in an agreement with Poland for completion in 1993;

(b) if so, whether the Project could not reach the targeted production even after investment of Rs. 125 crores;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether 72 chalk shields valued at Rs. 10 lakhs each are now wasted being exposed to sun and rains;

(e) whether the Trapler Car Shed built up at an expense of Rs. 80 lakhs remains unused; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government against ECL for such wastage of public money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (d) The Satgram Project of ECL has not been executed in agreement with Poland. However a Polish company viz M/s. Overseas Mine Construction Company (KOPEX, Polish Public Enterprise) was awarded a contract to sink two shafts and related work at Satgram through a global tender. It has been reported by Coal India Limited that the project could not achieve its production target even after investing Rs. 137.04 crores upto November'98. The main reason for this is agitation by contract workers engaged by KOPEX for employment in ECL and non-acquisition of land for mining. This issue was brought to the notice to State Government of West Bengal but the problem is yet to be resolved. The land owners are demanding benefits beyond the prescribed norms of CIL. The dewatering work of the upper seam is kept under suspension due to the villagers' resistance. As a result of this the longwall panel after development could not be equipped with longwall equipment and has been kept on the surface.

(e) It has been stated by Coal India Ltd. that the Creepar Carcircuit is not in use at present due to the above reasons and will be used as soon as the mine is completely equipped after the land problem is solved.

(f) The slippage in the commissioning of this project is not on account of any lapse on the part of ECL's