

programmes for SC/ST population", under which projects are funded all over the country.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A project entitled "Production of seeds and nursery, rearing of major carps and catfish (*Clarias batrachus*)" is being implemented by St. Anthony's College, Shillong since July, 98. The objectives of the project are to facilitate the production of fish seed of both the carps and the catfish, induced breeding and also the rearing of fry and fingerlings of these fishes along the modern scientific lines, training students of the college and also local farmers in the field through extension programme. This would not only help the students to start their own enterprise but also help to improve the financial status of fish farmers of this region.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology is interacting with the Govt. of Meghalaya for sponsoring research activities on medicinal and aromatic plants.

Bench of High Court at Trivandrum

1233. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has sent a proposal for setting up of a bench of High Court at Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) No complete proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court, for establishing a bench of the High Court at Thiruvananthapuram. As such, it is not possible for the Central Government to take any action in the matter.

[Translation]

Linking of NH-34 Via Jamtada-Dumka-Pakudiar

1234. SHRI SOM MARANDI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the distance of North-East India would be shortened if G.T. Road and National Highway No. 34 are linked via-Jamtada-Dumka-Pakudiar;

(b) if so, whether any action plan is under consideration in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

1235. SHRI TATHAGAT SATPATHY :

DR. RAVI MALLU :

SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY :

SHRI RAM CHANDRA MALLICK :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of States in which Mid-Day Meal Scheme has been introduced;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed its implementation;

(c) if so, the performance of different States in this regard;

(d) the allocation made to various States for the implementation of the scheme during the last three years, State-wise;

(e) the funds allocated for the scheme in 1998-99 State-wise;

(f) whether the Government have issued any fresh instructions to implement the scheme;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether irregularities have been committed in the running of this scheme;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) The Mid-Day Meal Scheme has been introduced in all States and UTs.

(b) and (c) As the programme has been extended to all blocks and urban areas in the country only in the year 1997-98, it has not been possible to conduct any formal review or evaluation of the scheme so far. As such it is not possible to comment on the performance of different States in this regard.

(d) Statement of allocation of foodgrains during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 is enclosed.

(e) An amount of Rs. 1092.15 crores has been provided for the scheme in the budget of this Department in 1998-99. This is for payment of cost

of foodgrains to FCI and transportation charges to DRDAs, etc.

(f) and (g) The State Governments have been asked to regularly send quarterly end-user certificates and monthly lifting figures to the Department. District Collectors have been asked to send monthly utilisation certificates to FCI.

(h) to (j) As per available information, only the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra have reported irregularities. Gujarat has reported that it has taken action against the erring persons and Maharashtra has stated that reports on the irregularities have been received from the concerned District Collectors and police complaints lodged against the guilty contractors.

Statement

(in MTS)

S.No.	State/UTs	1996-97 Allocated	1997-98 Allocated	1998-99 Allocated
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	147415.00	217229.00	228543.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2908.00	2908.00	4530.90
3.	Assam	62815.00	70042.00	70041.70
4.	Bihar	183767.00	241412.00	280596.90
5.	Goa	105.00	2973.00	2513.50
6.	Gujarat	42088.00	107481.00	88117.40
7.	Haryana	35172.00	51634.00	53305.10
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9117.00	19742.00	20826.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	14889.00	18611.00	18610.90
10.	Karnataka	111053.00	164604.00	169758.90
11.	Kerala	7550.00	62797.00	48022.90
12.	Madhya Pradesh	178317.00	221545.00	220459.80
13.	Maharashtra	128932.00	251552.00	288718.30
14.	Manipur	4129.00	6499.00	7637.60
15.	Meghalaya	6557.00	8691.00	9614.90
16.	Mizoram	2902.00	2899.00	2918.50
17.	Nagaland	2920.00	2920.00	2920.10
18.	Orissa	53297.00	96105.00	80087.10
19.	Punjab	16359.00	52992.00	52991.90
20.	Rajasthan	109096.00	123594.00	166045.90
21.	Sikkim	1864.00	1864.00	2549.60
22.	Tamil Nadu	27915.00	163848.00	118735.50
23.	Tripura	11371.00	14012.00	14575.70
24.	Uttar Pradesh	297289.00	393891.00	457857.00
25.	West Bengal	109134.00	235206.00	263596.70

1	2	3	4	5
26.	A & N Islands	165.00	1211.00	1106.00
27.	Chandigarh	1943.00	585.00	10000.00
28.	D & N Haveli	734.00	594.00	662.90
29.	Daman & Diu	245.00	430.00	446.00
30.	Delhi	14400.00	28150.00	18100.80
31.	Lakshdweep	264.00	264.00	-
32.	Pondicherry	940.00	1351.00	1319.40
India		1585652.00	2567636.00	2705211.60

Counter-Guarantee to Fast Track Project

1236. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have likely signed a counter-guarantee to the third fast track power project, after the ENRON and the GVK project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of fast track power projects still pending for issuance of such counter guarantees by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) During the month of August, 1998 the Government have issued counter-guarantee in the case of the Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (1040 MW) of M/s Hinduja National Power Company Limited (HNPCL) in Andhra Pradesh, Bhadravati Thermal Power Project (1082 MW) of M/s Central India Power Company (CIPCO) in Maharashtra and 250 MW single unit lignite based Neyveli Thermal Power Project of M/s ST-CMS Electric Company in Tamil Nadu.

(c) Counter guarantee has not been issued for the 1000 MW Mangalore power project of M/s Mangalore Power Company. The Government of India has decided that further steps for issue of counter guarantee for this project would be taken once the decision of the Supreme Court on the SLP filed by Government of Karnataka against the judgment of High Court of Karnataka in the Public Interest Writ Petition No. 10696/97 is available. Apart from this, the issue of counter guarantee to Ib Valley power project of M/s AES Transpower in Orissa, for which counter guarantee was issued earlier, may have to

be considered afresh as the project parameters have undergone changes.

[Translation]

Gas Based Power Projects

1237. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of gas based power projects/stations in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the power generation capacity of each project/station; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The number of gas turbine power projects/stations in the country, as on 31-3-1998, State-wise is given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c) There is a proposal to enhance the capacity of the following existing stations :-

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	State
1.	Peguthan CCGT	Gujarat
2.	Kawas CCGT	Gujarat
3.	Gandhar CCGT	Gujarat
4.	Agartala GT	Tripura
5.	Kathalguri CCGT	Assam
6.	Anta CCGT	Rajasthan
7.	Auraiya CCGT	Uttar Pradesh