

sion. This will apply to those whose minimum service is for more than 5 years. All the details of the normal pension concept, pension to the family and to the workers themselves, etc. have been worked out on the actuarial basis. As I said, it has to be formally approved by the Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C.P. THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the hon. Minister's Statement, it will have some bearing on other Public Sector Undertakings, as well. In that case, the Government should take a broad decision so that it benefits the employees of all the Public Sector Undertakings. Is any such scheme under the consideration of the Government?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I cannot say that this is so, but it often happens that on the pretext of the effects percolating to other Public Sector Undertakings, projects are shelved and even those who could have been benefited are not able to get the benefits. This, I think, is not right. It is welcome to think about the welfare of employees and to create funds for this purpose, but in doing so attempts should not be made to create hindrances in the scheme of others. I would request the hon. Member not to put obstacles in a matter which has reached the final stage.

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, what the hon. Minister has stated is not a fact that the discussion took much longer time. The agreement was finalised three years back. The JBCCI also gave its approval. Then, it went to the Government for its final approval. It is pending with the Government for months together. This scheme was approved by NCWA-III, three years back and the term of NCWA also expired in December, 1987. There are a number of welfare schemes like employment of one of the dependants of the retired employee, construction of quarters, residential accommodation, drinking water but none of them have so far been incorpo-

rated in the NCWA-III.

May I know from the hon. Minister as to how much time the Government will take to give its approval for the pension scheme of the coal mine workers?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I restricted myself only to this pension scheme. If the hon. Member wants to make a wide ranging allegation against the implementation, then I can only say that he is not factually correct. Quite a many recommendations of the NCWA have been implemented and there is a good rapport with the employees and the management as far as these welfare schemes are concerned.

The last meeting with the CMPF Board of Trustees on this question was held on 6.1.1989. i.e. just a few months back. So, to say that this has been going on and is pending with the Government is not correct. This is being considered. As I have said that because there is a feeling in the Bureau of Public Enterprises and the Government in some sectors that it will have its repercussions in other public sectors and therefore it must be considered more carefully was the reason why so much time was taken. If it was left to ourselves, then I can say to this House, through you, that this Ministry and the Coal India Ltd., would have implemented this scheme without delay.

Hydro-Electric Project on River Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir

*167. SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a hydro-electric project on river Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir State is to be constructed in villages Serthalakote and Sawalkote of Tehsil Gool Gulab Garh of district Udhampur;

(b) whether the Civil Division sanctioned for Serthalakote has been established there;

(c) if so, when and if not, the reasons for

delay;

(d) whether Government are aware of the fact that because of speculation in the prices of land, indiscriminate felling and destruction of trees on both Government as well as private lands has started and tampering with revenue records is being manipulated in order to put forth fraudulent claims for compensation; and

(e) if so, the corrective action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Sawalkot HE Project is proposed to be constructed on the river Chenab in Jammu & Kashmir. The Dam of the project would be located at Sidhu in Ramban Tehsil of District Doda and the Power House at Sarthala in Gool-Gulab Tehsil of District Udhampur.

(b) and (c). As the project has not yet been sanctioned, only the preliminary works have been taken in hand by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation, who would be executing the project.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (d).

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Udhampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the point is that the Government has given the following reply.

[*English*]

"The Sawalkot HE project is proposed to be constructed..."

[*Translation*]

At the same time he says that the scheme has not yet been sanctioned. Is it a fact that the Ministry of Environment has not yet given

its clearance. As a result of that, as the hon. Minister said now, it will take 10 years for the project to complete. In this way there will be more delay. So far as the Cost of the project is concerned, he has informed that the project will cost Rs. 686.51 crores. Is it not a fact that the more the project is delayed the more will be the cost escalation. Through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that in spite of his earnest desire the Ministry of Environment did not give its clearance to these two projects i.e. the Sawalkot and Bagliyer projects and I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the steps the Government has taken to get their clearance early. After the receipt of the clearance, global tenders will be invited and thereby there will be more delay in taking up the project. Does the Government realise it that in order to strengthen our power sector, we have to work more and remove the bottlenecks coming in its way. Will the hon. Minister tell as to what steps he would be taking in this direction?

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Sawalkot project will have to be executed on the river Chenab. Techno-economic clearance on this project has already been received, but the clearance from the Ministry of Forest and Environment is yet to be received. Moreover, the revised estimates will have to be prepared. Until and unless all these formalities are completed, this project cannot be taken up. This will be done under bi-lateral agreements. Work on infrastructure is being undertaken to start the project and the Government is making every effort to complete these projects. As soon as the requisite clearance from the Department of Forests is received, the project will also be implemented.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: It is all right that the Government is making efforts, but what is the result of those efforts. The result is that no work has been undertaken for the last 2 years. I would like to know about the steps that have been taken to expedite these works and what steps are proposed to be taken by the hon. Minister to ensure that work on both these projects is started at the

earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, should we ask the Government to stop making efforts?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): Sir, it is true that since the Department of Environment was created and an Act to that effect was enacted it has brought in a new approach to the subject and it has been our effort to see that the project is safe from environmental point of view and it does not create any imbalance in the environment of the country. That is why we have found a way out in consultation with my colleague and the officials of the department. We have asked them to constitute a Committee of the experts to proper an environmental plan before the project is taken up. The expenditure thereon will be borne by the Department of power. It will check the delay to be caused by the movement of files from one place to the other. We are making efforts in this direction and we are sure that we will be successful in our efforts.

[English]

White Paper on Public Sector

*169. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL†:
DR. G.S. RAJHANS:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the White Paper on Public Sector has been finalised;

(b) if so, whether it has been considered by Government; and

(c) if so, when it is to be presented before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c). White Paper on Public Sector is still under consideration of the Government and will be placed before Parliament as soon as it is finalised.

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: At least the Gov-

ernment should be able to tell when it is going to finalise the White Paper and when it is going to lay it on the Table of the House? There are many sick units and losses are increasing. Even after the Government has taken them over, still they are running into losses. The public is very sensitive about the public sector. We are having great concern for the losses. It is not fair on the part of the Government just to say that they have not yet finalised it. When will it be ready and when will it be laid on the Table of the House?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: It has been put up before the Cabinet. It will be finalised as early as possible. Certainly, it will be placed on the Table of the House. The hon. Member has expressed a great concern about the losses. In 1986-87, the profit of the public sector was Rs. 717 crores. In the current year, the net profit of the public sector is Rs. 2,183 crores. Some units are earning profit. Generally these public sector units are earning profit.

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: There are sick units which are being taken over by the Government. After they are taken over by the Government, they are still running into losses. What are the reasons for their running into losses regularly? What steps the Government proposes to take to stop these losses?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: The only alternative is to close those sick units. But if we close them, then thousands of workers will be unemployed. That is why the government has to incur loss of Rs. 300 crores every year.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Is it a fact that the Government is thinking of transferring some of the losing public sector units to the Joint sector units?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: There is no such proposal.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: The Government had assured in the House in the last