

(a) whether the Orissa State Agro Industries Corporation has submitted any scheme for agricultural development in the State to NABARD for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for early clearance of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Question do not arise.

Gujarat Public Works Contracts Disputes Arbitration Tribunal Ordinance

6880. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat public works Contracts Disputes Arbitration Tribunal Ordinances is pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in according clearance to the said Ordinance and the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The previous instructions of the president for the promulgation of the Gujarat Public Works Contracts Disputes Arbitration Tribunal Ordinance, 1989 have been conveyed to the State Government on 4.9.1991.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Municipal Board) Regulations 1957

6881. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for amendment of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Municipal Board) Regulations 1957 has been forwarded by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration to the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). In 1989, the Andaman and Nicobar administration sent a proposal to the Ministry of Urban Development to amend the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Municipal Board) Regulations, 1957 thereby increasing the number of members of the Municipal Board, increasing the term of the Municipal Board, providing for direct elections for the Chairman of the Municipal Board, increasing the term of office of the Chairman of the Board and to lower the age of voters from 21 years to 18 years.

Necessary amendments to lower the age of voters from 21 years to 18 years have been carried out.

Pollution due to Release of Effluents by Hindustan Zinc Limited

6882. SHRI M.V.V. S. MURTHI: SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the effluents released by the Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) in Visakhapatnam is causing air and water pollution;

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken by the HZL in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Liquid effluents and Gaseous emissions released by Hindustan Zinc Limited conform to the standards prescribed by Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board.

(b) In the Smelter of Hindustan Zinc Limited at Visakhapatnam, Sulphur Dioxide Gas produced during smelting of zinc and lead is converted into Sulphuric Acid. The liquid effluents from the Lead and Zinc Smelter Plant, after being treated in the Effluent Treatment Plant, is discharged and this effluent conforms to the Standards prescribed by the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board. The treated effluents from treatment plant conform to be tolerance limits of Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board in terms of ph, suspended solids and metals like Zinc, Lead, Cadmium, Copper, Mercury Arsenic etc. Sulphur Dioxide content of gaseous emission is maintained below 2000 PPM prescribed by Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board. Hindustan Zinc Limited has invested Rs. 16 crores on installation of effluent treatment plant and other measures not only to contain pollution within the permissible limit but to further reduce the same. Recurring expenditure is Rs. 1.5 crores per annum.

(c) Does not arise.

Developmental Programmes for Drought Affected Districts In Orissa

6883. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of State for agriculture visited drought affected districts in Orissa to review the implementation of various developmental programmes in the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow up action taken by the Government on those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). A Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture visited several areas of Kalahandi and Phulbani districts of Orissa in July, 1991 to review the prevailing rainfall and crop situation, the readiness of the district administration to tackle the situation and the implementation of various development programmes.

(c) The State Government of Orissa has been advised to make an indepth study of the Area Development Approach for Poverty Termination programme.

[*Translation*]

Aluminium Factory at Latehar in Bihar

6884. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Birla Group have obtained lease for setting up of an aluminium factory in the bauxite located area of Latehar in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to set up an aluminium factory in Latehar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.