

ladesh thought it fit to raise the bilateral issue of River Waters in her statement at UN General Assembly on October 1, 1993. Her reference to the Farakka Barrage and related issues neither do justice to the documented facts nor refer to the understanding in May '92 between Prime Minister of India and Prime Minister of Bangladesh on the principles and framework of a solution. India remains committed to devising "an equitable, long term and comprehensive arrangement" on water sharing with Bangladesh through bilateral discussions.

When Bangladesh confirms its interest in a meaningful dialogue on these principles and is able to overcome the temptation to play politics with the important River Waters issue, it should be possible to conclude a mutually acceptable Agreement. India continues to be ready for a constructive dialogue with Bangladesh on the subject.

New Delhi
8 October 93.

Energy Management Centre in Kerala

3627. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide financial assistance to Kerala for setting up of an Energy Management Centre; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Ministry of Power has not received any proposal from

Kerala seeking financial assistance for setting up of an Energy Management Centre.

(b) Does not arise.

Iran's Offer of Good Offices

3628. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent reports regarding Pakistan's announcement to accept the offer of good offices by Iran for a settlement of the Kashmir issue; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) Government have seen press reports to this effect.

(b) Government are committed to resolving all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan peacefully and through bilateral negotiations under the Simla Agreement.

Agro Based Industries

3629. SHRI SOBHANAD-
REESWARA RAO
VADDE :
SHRI RAMESHWAR
PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the provisions made by the Union Government for the development of agro-based industries during the last three years upto January 1, 1994;

(b) the amount provided annually to each State during the above period;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up Integrated Development Centres for the promotion of agro-based industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the State-wise allocations made in the agro-based industries for 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has formulated several developmental Plan Schemes for the overall development of Food Processing Industries. The Plan outlay approved by the Planning Commission for these Schemes during 1992-93 and 1993-94 was Rs. 40 crores and Rs. 47 crores respectively. During 1991-92 the Plan outlay approved was Rs. 40 crores.

(b) to (e) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up Food Processing Unit directly in any State. However, under the Plan Schemes of this Ministry assistance is provided to State Government Organisations/Joint Sector Companies/Cooperative Societies/Voluntary Organisations etc. for setting up/upgrading Food Processing Industries.

No state-specific earmarking of Plan funds is made.

Privatisation of Ports in Gujarat

3630. SHRI GHANDRESH PATEL

: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to hand over some Ports in Gujarat to private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the terms and conditions for handing over the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The State Government of Gujarat has not submitted any proposal to the Central Government for handing over any Port to a private party.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Privatisation of Bumpur Steel Plant

3631. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations opposing the move to privatise the Bumpur Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken to safeguard the interests of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have decided to allow private sector participation in the equity and management of HISCO for the purpose of ensuring expeditious modern-