

Issue of Bonds

389. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:
DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has formulated any scheme to issue bonds in the international market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the rate of interest fixed in respect of the bonds;
- (d) whether clearance from the Ministry of Finance has been obtained for the above purpose; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Coal India Limited

390. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to make the Coal India Limited a successful competitor vis-a-vis private sector companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The participation by private sector in coal mining has been allowed only for captive consumption. As their coal is not for sale outside, the question of their competing directly with Coal India Ltd. does not arise. In regard to imported coal the cost per therm of coal of Coal India is already competitive. Further, Indian Coal with its low sulphur content has an edge over most of the coal available for import.

Ground water level

391. SHRI N.J. RATHVA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ground water level in Gujarat is going down rapidly;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Central Ground Water Board in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any schemes to the Union Government for raising ground water level in the State;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith their estimated cost; and

(e) the steps taken by Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Gradual decline in ground water level has been observed in certain parts of North Gujarat in the districts of Ahmedabad, Banaskantha, Gandhinagar, Mehsana, Sabarkantha and Kutchh.

(b) A draft Model Bill prepared by the Central Ground Water Board to assist the State Governments in control and regulation of ground water has been circulated to State Governments/Union Territories including Government of Gujarat which has enacted the legislation on the lines proposed in the Model Bill. The Board has also circulated guidelines to the State Governments for formulation of artificial recharge schemes in areas faced with situation of decline in ground water level.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat had submitted to Union Government a project proposal for augmenting surface water recharge in over exploited aquifers of North Gujarat for posing the project for external assistance. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 110.65 crores.

Sone river water dispute

392. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have constituted any Committee consisting of Chairman and Member (WP), Central Water Commission to sort out the Sone river water dispute.
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said Committee has held any meeting with the party States to sort out the dispute;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Committee has submitted its report;
- (f) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee; and
- (g) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) & (b) As per decision taken in the Inter-State meeting of Sone basin States on 24.8.1992, a High Level Technical Committee for sharing of Sone Waters was set up on 30.10.92 under the Chairmanship of the Chairman, Central Water Commission. Other members of the Committee are Engineer-in-Chiefs of Irrigation Departments of basin States. Chief Engineer, Irrigation Management, Central Water Commission, is a Member-Secretary.

The terms of reference for the Committee include