

Assistance given to various States in the Region during the last five years, the two factors being given equal weightage.

#### **Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers**

7716. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted any enquiry into allegations of malpractices against certain officials of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers, Bombay; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

#### **Foreign Trips by SAIL Officials**

7717. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL is incurring huge expenditure towards the frequent foreign trips by its senior officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any guidelines in this regard;

(d) whether frequent absence of senior officials of SAIL is affecting the smooth functioning of the organisation; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) It is not a fact that SAIL is incurring a huge expenditure on foreign trips by its senior officials. The expenditure incurred on foreign tours during 1993-94 is Rs. 9.82 crores against a sales turnover of Rs. 11670 crores and net profit of Rs. 545.33 crores.

(c) Visits abroad are necessitated on account of various reasons. SAIL has undertaken massive modernisation of its steel plants for which Technology and equipment are being acquired from different overseas suppliers. Senior officials are required to be deputed abroad to hold discussions with the foreign suppliers. Employees are also trained abroad at the works of different suppliers to learn the operation and maintenance of new

equipment, and also to imbibe the best operational practices. Visits of a commercial nature are also required to sustain and develop export markets for SAIL's products.

All overseas visits are undertaken with the prior approval of chairman, SAIL. Visits of Chairman, SAIL abroad require Government approval. All proposals are carefully scrutinised from essentiality angle, before approval is accorded.

(d) It is not a fact that absence of senior officials is affecting the performance/functioning of SAIL. Visits abroad are organised with prior planning and appropriate alternate arrangements are made to ensure smooth functioning of work.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Setting up of Power Projects**

7718. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given any assurance on April 29, 1995 in Orissa to assist State Government to set up power plants; and

(b) if so, details of the kind of assistance proposed to be provided to state Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Gujarat Torrent Energy Corporation**

7719. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether start-up down payment by the Gujarat Government for the joint-sector Gandhar power project company (Gujarat Torrent Energy Corporation) has been withheld pending an enquiry into certain irregularities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the nature of irregularities,

(c) whether investigation into the alleged irregularities has already been initiated; and

(d) if so, the results thereof and if not reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.