

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) 137 Indian technicians had gone to Abu Dhabi under the sponsorship of M/s Fochi International, an Italian company. The company became bankrupt and due to the closure of the Abu Dhabi office of the company, the Indian workers could not be provided the jobs on their arrival.

(b) The Mission is making necessary efforts in accordance with local regulations, to regularise their stay in Abu Dhabi.

(c) Government is not aware of any written communication in this regard from the Chief Minister of Kerala.

(d) and (e). These workers approached the Embassy for redressal of their grievances. Our Embassy has taken up the matter at a high level with the local authorities to get the problem resolved. So far 35 workers have been repatriated, at their request. A number of workers have requested for suitable jobs as they are not interested in returning back to India. The Embassy has been taking up their case with the local Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The local authorities in U.A.E. have promised their full cooperation in resolving the crisis either by repatriation of those who wish to go back or transfer of visa of the others to some other employer.

(f) Does not arise.

#### **Coal Supply to Power Projects**

1211. SHRI SOBHANA DREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the fate of 197 MOU relating to private investment in power sector hangs in balance as Coal Companies and Railways have refused to accord top priority for supply and transportation of coal to the proposed thermal projects;

(b) if so, the details of the difficulties being faced by these departments; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):

(a) Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Railways and coal companies have not refused to accord priority for supply and transportation of coal to the proposed thermal project.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### **Purchase of Power from NTPC by Core Sector**

1212. SHRI R. SURENDER REEDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to the amounts owed to the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) by the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) for the purchase of power;

(b) whether the cash-strapped NTPC which has to recover hundreds of crores from the SEBs, has recently approached his Ministry with the suggestion for making it obligatory for the core sector such as coal, railways and State controlled steel plants, etc. to purchase power from the NTPC;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the SEBs are likely to be affected adversely if the power purchase from NTPC is more obligatory for the core sector;

(e) if so, whether they have expressed apprehensions against the aforesaid proposal;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government to the aforesaid proposal of NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):

(a) The total outstanding dues of State Electricity Boards and Electricity Departments etc. of some State Government of National Thermal Power Corporation towards the purchase of power as on 31st October, 1995 are Rs. 3428.69 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (g). Questions do not arise.

#### **Moidu Bridge in Kerala**

1213. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for construction of new bridge at the site of Moidu bridge on NH-17;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) No such proposal has been received from Government of Kerala.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### **Shortlisting of National Highway Projects**

1214. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: