

stringent fiscal situation. The Ninth Five Year Plan will continue this commitment in real terms through each of the five years. While the objectives of this programme have been decided through the process of mutual consultation, the States have been given full opportunity to decide on the phasing of the target for each specific sector. The achievement of these targets will be jointly monitored by the State and the Central Governments. This approach is an ideal blend of national commitments with local initiatives.

The method of planning for agriculture related infrastructure, irrigation and water planning, other infrastructure like power, railways, communication and information technology and science & technology will be a variant of the methods developed for the Basic Minimum Services Programme. Plans will be set up with well defined target set at the national level in detailed consultation with States. Policies will be explored in each sector to provide for more investments from the private sector, from cooperatives and voluntary organisations and international private investments. However the slack in these selected sectors will be taken by public investment. The objectives will be defined nationally but the States and local Governments will be given much larger freedom for choice of programme, phasing of schemes and choosing appropriate instruments of finance.

(e) to (h) Chief Ministers/Governors of different States during the NDC meeting held on 16.01.1997 held the view that the States should be given more, financial autonomy for effective execution of Plan and to accelerate the development process for which more resources need to be placed at the disposal of the States. The Ninth Plan, the preparation of which is presently underway in Planning Commission, based on the framework provided in the Approach Paper, takes into account the views of the Chief Ministers/Governors of the States and will include the details of schemes and the time frame for implementation of programmes.

Land for Tarapur Atomic Power Projects

*176. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have adopted a policy to allot land for the Tarapur Atomic Power Projects and also to employ one person from the family whose land was acquired;

(b) the number of applications panding with the Tarapur Power Project authority, for service from the project affected persons;

(c) the reasons for not granting them employment so far;

(d) the time-bound programme to clear all such pending applications; and

(e) the criteria fixed by the Government to offer employment to project affected persons with reference to their land acquired for the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Rehabilitation package for the persons likely to be affected due to acquisition of land for the TAPP 3 & 4 project is under formulation in consultation with the Maharashtra Government. There is no commitment for providing land for land to the affected persons. Preference in the matter of employment will be given to eligible members of the displaced families to the extent of available vacancies subject to their suitability/qualifications.

(b) to (d) Eleven applications from members of seven families from whom 1.588 hectares of land has been taken possession of by the NPCIL for the plant site have been received. Of these three have been employed. In addition, 39 persons whose lands are under acquisition have been provided employment. Though the project financial sanction was issued in 1991, plant construction could not be commenced due to financial constraints. Possession of balance land has also not been given. Further employment to the persons who may be affected by the land acquisition will be taken up after the project work commences.

(e) Project affected persons are given preference in recruitment in Group C & D categories, subject to their meeting the eligibility requirements.

Multi National Companies in F.P.I.

*177. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :
SHRI K. PRADHANI :

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to grant permission to the Multi National Companies for opening a fast food shops chain in the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the shops of fast food under the ownership of the Multi National Companies are using such additives which are considered harmful from the health point of view to make their food items delicious;

(d) if so, the details of such cases reported so far to the Government; and

(e) the details of safety measures adopted to check such malpractices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (e) The Industrial Policy Statement of 1991 permits foreign equity investments in various sectors of the industry which inter alia includes processed food products. Under this Policy, while automatic approval for foreign equity investments upto 51% is granted for industries listed in Annexure-III of the Industrial Policy Statement of 1991, proposals for foreign investments which do not qualify for the automatic approval are also examined by a High Powered Committee known as the Foreign Investment Promotion Board and are approved at an appropriate level of the government. Foreign investments by the International Companies for establishment of fast food, restaurants have been permitted by the Government under the above Policy. These chains of restaurants are to operate within the laws in force. Sales of food articles containing harmful ingredients are punishable under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. Food (Health) authorities of the States and Union Territories have been advised to keep vigil on the quality of food articles sold and take legal action in the event of contravention.

Corruption Cases

*178. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of corruption and assets disproportionate to the known income of civil servants have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the number of Central Government servants involved;

(c) the number of Officers of All India Services involved in corruption and dishonesty;

(d) the number of cases reported and investigated separately by the vigilance organisations in 1995 and 1996 and number of cases sent for trial and departmental action;

(e) whether the Government have made any review of the functioning and powers of vigilance sections attached to the Government Officers;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (g) Civil servants of the Government of India belonging to various Services are

controlled by the respective administrative Ministries, who are the competent authorities for according sanction for prosecution as also for initiating disciplinary action. The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions is concerned with two services, namely the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) (Grade I and above). In respect of officers of IAS, the State Government concerned is also competent to conduct investigation into an allegation of corruption etc. and a reference to this Ministry in respect of such IAS officers will be made by the State Government when the case reaches the stage of trial and sanction is required under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. As on date 18 IAS Officers and three officers of the CSS (Grade I and above) are being prosecuted under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 on the basis of sanction under the said Act accorded by this Department. Regular Departmental Action against 8 IAS Officers and 4 CSS Officers (Grade I and above) has been initiated.

In the present scheme of vigilance, the responsibility for maintaining purity and integrity in the department/organisation rests with the Secretary of the Administrative Ministry and the vigilance units assist the Secretary in this task. Review of these Units is also done by the Secretary/Head of the organisation as and when considered necessary by him.

Merger of Ministries

*179. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI RAMSAGAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to reduce the number of Ministries and Departments of the Union Government by merger of the Departments;

(b) if so, the details of the list of realignment;

(c) whether some Departments are proposed to be transferred to the State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the main objectives behind this proposal; and

(f) the details of the steps taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (f) There are no proposals pending on reorganisation/merger of Ministries. However, the Fifth Central Pay commission has proposed, inter alia, in its report that the Central Government needs to be re-structured by closing down some departments or