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| 4 Construction of Teesta Phase-III in North Sikkim | Ministry of Environment and Forests vide their letter No. J-12011/5/92-IA dated 17.8.95 have directed Sikkim Power Department to come up with the Environment Plans on the basis of basin study before the environmental clearance is given. According to records available with the Ministry, additional details have been sought from Government of Sikkim. |
| 5 Rathang-chu Hydro Electric Project. | The Environment and Forestry clearances were issued during 1992 and 1995 respectively. The stay granted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter on appeal from NGOs has been vacated and State Power Department has been asked to go ahead with the project work at the risk and peril of the State Government. |

Condition of Women Prisoners

*445 KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the condition of women prisoners in jails in the country is very miserable;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have prepared any plan to improve their condition;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and
- (d) the time by which the same is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (d) Though it would be inaccurate to say that the condition of women prisoners in jails in the country is very miserable, the Central Government has been stressing the need for further improvement in the living conditions of prisoners.

Prisons is a State subject. However, the Central Government, on its part, has been providing, apart from guidance on improvements on various aspects of prison functioning, financial assistance to the States for modernization of prisons. The Tenth Finance Commission has

also provided funds to the State Governments to improve the conditions in jails. It is expected that the State plans to improve the infrastructure in jails would lead to better living conditions in jails.

[Translation]

Construction of Rail Line

*446 SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the reasons for delay in the construction of Dlii-Rajhara-Raughat-Jagdalpur rail line,
- (b) the target for completion of the said route,
- (c) whether this said route has been included in the priority list of the railways under the policy for the development of backward and neglected areas, and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) The Dalli Rajahara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur line is to be taken up on a cost sharing basis between the Railways, Ministry of Steel and Madhya Pradesh Government. The work has been included in Railway Budget of 95-96.

The basis of cost sharing is as under :

1. Government of Madhya Pradesh would provide free land and royalty concessions of totalling Rs. 27 crs.

2. Ministry of Steel will bear the actual cost of Construction between Dallirajahara and Rowghat (95 kms), presently estimated at Rs. 134 crs. and would also provide a contribution of Rs. 75 crs. as budgetary support for Rowghat-Jagdalpur sector.

3. Railways would provide the balance cost amounting to Rs. 133 crs.

The MOU is under finalization. The major issues which are pending are :

(i) Ministry of Steel had earlier agreed to a 7% return which was to be adjusted through freight concessions. Now they are demanding 16%.

(ii) SAIL had earlier ensured a traffic of 2.4 million tonnes in the first year of operation which would rise to 3.3 million tonnes and more from the 3rd year. Now, they are guaranteeing only a minimum traffic of 2.4 million tonnes per year to entitle themselves for equivalent return on investment.

(iii) The Ministry of Steel are contributing to this project so that they can carry iron ore from Bailadilla Mines of Bilai Steel Plants. However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has not yet cleared the proposal for mining from Bailadilla. The Ministry of Steel want to sign the MOU only after this clearance is obtained.

This Ministry is ready to take up the work after the signing of MOU and deposit of money by SAIL, and other parties.

Since this line would be a project oriented one, and would also serve the backward and tribal areas, the project would be assigned category 'A' once the MOU is signed and the work is taken up. The target for completion of the line would be fixed once the work is started.

[English]

Construction of Railway Line

*447 SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal to construct railway line from Lanjigarh Road to Ambaguda in the recent past and the same has been approved upto Janagad in the Waltair Division of the South Eastern Railway,

(b) if so, whether Government propose to construct rail line between Junagad-Ambaguda in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Construction of a new line from Lanjigarh Road to Junagarh only has been sanctioned. There is no proposal for construction of a railway line between Junagarh and Ambaguda in the near future.

(c) Does not arise.

Freedom Fighters Pension

*448 SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government consider extension of time beyond July 31, 1981 to enable the remaining Freedom Fighters (Swatantrata Sainiks) to avail Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension in their old age,

(b) whether the Government consider and approve the major events of the Freedom struggle, viz Kayyur, Morazha, Punnapra-Vayalar in Kerala in the approved list of Freedom struggle movement in the country; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (c) The last date for receipt of applications for grant of freedom fighters pension was 31-3-1982. Applications received after the prescribed date are also considered by the Government provided the same are accompanied by documentary evidence from official records which could prove suffering of atleast six months imprisonment/exceterment/internment/under-ground suffering or loss of job etc. No last date is fixed now.

Participation in the Kayyur, Morazha and punnapra-Vayalar movements in Kerala as a part of Freedom Struggle

is being reconsidered in consultation with the State Government of Kerala.

[Translation]

National Agriculture Production Index

*449. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the Index for National Agricultural Production (Anawari Report) was determined along with the details thereof;

(b) whether any changes have been incorporated therein, and

(c) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Annawari system of estimating agricultural production was introduced when the system of preparation of crop forecasts was initiated in the country. The preparation of crop forecasts was initiated with wheat crop in 1884 followed by rice, cotton, jute, sesamum, linseed the rapeseed and mustard in 1885. Later on more crops were brought under the purview of Crop Forecasting/Estimation system. The system of estimating crop yield/production based under traditional method (Annawari System) was continued till the scientific method of yield estimation of major crops on the basis of crop cutting experiments was introduced sometime in early fifties. The index of agricultural production which indicate the relative change in production of crops with respect to base period, are available for the period 1949-50 to 1994-95 with triennium ending 1981-82 = 100 as the base.

(b) The production estimates are now prepared based on estimation of yield through organizing scientifically designed crop cutting experiments. The coverage of crops and area under this method of estimation of production is being increased over years. Presently, about 46 crops are covered under the scientifically designed crop estimation surveys and construction of index number of agricultural production in the country.

(c) The change in the method of estimation of production from "Annawari" to scientifically designed crop cutting experiments was mainly aimed at improving the reliability of estimates of production as the former method was supposed to be subjective in nature.

[English]

Production of Oilseeds

*450. SHRI B. DHARMABIKSHAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is facing acute edible oil deficiency due to shortfall in the production of oilseeds and increase in their prices;