

(c) With the expansion of the programme, Central assistance is projected to increase from Rs. 441.38 crores in 1995-96 to Rs. 1400 crores in 1996-97.

In keeping with the objectives of the programme, State Governments have been requested to provide hot cooked meals to primary school children at the earliest.

[Translation]

Closure of Coal Mines

*67. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether 72 coal mines are lying closed in Bihar after the nationalisation of coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar for re-opening the closed mines in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d). In 1992, a Joint Inspection Team (JIT) was set up with the representatives of Government of Bihar and Coal India Limited to identify the closed mines in Bihar. The JIT identified 10 closed coal mines of Central Coalfields Limited and 5 closed coal mines of Eastern Coalfields Limited. The Government of Bihar had made a proposal that the Government of India should permit a lease to the Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation (BSMDC) to operate these mines. Of these 15 mines, only Jagaldaga satisfies the conditions of the Coal Mining Policy laid down by the Government of India on handing over coal mines to State Governments. Consultation is going on with the State Government regarding this case and no decision has been taken by Government. Regarding the other 14 mines too, consultation will be held with the State Government at the earliest to examine the prospect of handing over these mines to Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation.

National Policy of Water Management

*68. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a national policy with regard to water sharing and water management,

(b) if so the details thereof, and

(c) the time by which such policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A national policy on water sharing and water management is being devised.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) The draft National Policy guidelines for sharing of inter-State river Waters and Irrigation Management Policy as finalised by the National Water Board were discussed in the third meeting of National Water Resources Council held on 6th February, 1996 at New Delhi. It was generally suggested that these draft policies should be reviewed and modified before further consideration and adoption by the National Water Resources Council. It is not possible to indicate a time by which the policy guidelines is likely to be announced since discussions on the subject are likely to be lengthy and time-consuming.

STATEMENT

(i) Main features of the draft National Policy Guidelines for allocation of waters of inter-State rivers amongst States are as under :

- * The river basin will be reckoned as a unit for inter-State water allocation.
- * All co-basin States and the Centre would be parties to the process of allocation
- * Allocation to consider the reasonable possibility of utilisation.
- * Allocation to be based on the principle of equitable apportionment
- * States will be free to utilise their share in any way without conflicting with the overriding national interest
- * Inter-State agreements between all the co-basin States are normally to be accommodated.
- * Existing pre-plan uses and approved plan uses are to be protected
- * Allocation to consider needs for environmental management, navigation in National waterways and pressing needs of non-co-basin state etc. as National interests
- * Setting up monitoring and implementing mechanism to oversee allocations as made
- * Water allocation normally to be reviewed after 40 years

(ii) Main features envisaged in the draft Irrigation Management Policy are as under :

- * Water management should aim at maximising agricultural production in irrigated areas
- * Lower distribution system comprising