

*[English]***Caste based Census**

3653. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to conduct caste-based census;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) the scheduled time fixed for the completion of said census; and
- (d) the steps taken in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) No decision has been taken by the Government to conduct caste-based census.

- (b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Gas Based Power Projects in U.P.**

3654. SHRIMATI USHA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to set up gas based power plants in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the funds allocated by the Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) proposes to expand Auraiya CCPP in Uttar Pradesh by 650 MW based on naphtha as bridge fuel. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has accorded naphtha linkage for this project, which will be switched over to gas, as and when gas/LNG is made available. Techno-economic clearance of the project is awaited.

(c) No budgetary support from the Government is envisaged for this project and NTPC would arrange the requisite funds on its own for the implementation of the aforesaid project.

**Linking of Pune-Bangalore and Pune-Hyderabad**

3655. SHRI VITHAL TUPE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government are considering to take up the work of East diversion shortly to link the Pune-Bangalore and Pune-Hyderabad on the lines of west diversion which has already been completed to link the Bombay-Bangalore;
- (b) if so, the time by which the east diversion work is likely to be started; and

- (c) the present position of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The estimate for survey and investigation for construction of Pune Easterly diversion had been sanctioned by the Ministry and the alignment for the diversion was approved in November, 93. Construction of the diversion can be taken up only after completion of land acquisition. This work has at present a relatively low priority for inclusion in the Annual Plan programmes.

*[Translation]***Bhoj Wetland Scheme**

3656. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA:

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bhoj Wetland Scheme for the protection and development of large and small ponds of Bhopal is being implemented by the Government of Madhya Pradesh with the financial assistance of Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan;
- (b) if so, the progress made to this effect till date;
- (c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed;
- (d) whether the Government of Japan have stopped the said financial assistance after conducting the nuclear tests by India;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the total cost of the project and the total funds provided by the Government of Japan to the Union Government and the Government of Madhya Pradesh so far, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On the basis of information obtained from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, out of 14 sub-projects under the Bhoj Wetland Scheme, detailed project reports of 12 sub-projects have been finalised. Out of these, work on seven sub-projects is under execution. The State Government has initiated necessary action to start the work on the remaining five already finalised sub-projects. An amount of Rs. 55.63 crore has been spent on the scheme so far. The scheme is targetted for completion by 31.3.2000.

- (d) No, Sir.

- (e) Does not arise.

(f) The total cost of the scheme is Rs. 247.02 crore. The Government of Japan has disbursed an amount of Yen 636 million (Rs. 19.62 crore) till 31.5.1998 to the Government of Madhya Pradesh through the Government of India.