

[18 JULY, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) The existing guidelines for the monitoring system for projects, *inter alia*, contains the following provisions :

- (i) Adoption of milestone monitoring for all projects (milestones drawn from PERT charts).
- (ii) Quarterly performance review of all projects, implemented through the Public Sector Enterprises and their subsidiaries by the Secretary of administrative Ministry/Department concerned.
- (iii) Review of departmental projects by the Empowered Committee headed by the Secretary of the Ministry/Department to resolve the problems encountered in implementation, including contractual impediments.
- (iv) Site visits of projects facing constraints by the Ministries concerned.
- (v) Special review of identified projects by the Standing Committee of Secretaries to resolve inter-ministerial problems.

#### **Delay in Mega-projects**

302. SHRI RAM CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the top 25 Mega-Projects are behind their completion schedule as on date;

(b) what has been the cost and time overrun in each of the case and what action has been taken to ensure that these projects are completed without any further delay;

(c) whether Government are contemplating an element of fixing responsibility in such cases of delays; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) and (b) As on 1st June, 2002, 38 mega projects (costing more than Rs. 1000 crore) are being monitored by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme

Implementation. Of these, 11 projects have registered time overruns, while 14 projects have recorded cost overruns with reference to their approved schedule/cost. The sector-wise break-up of these projects is given in the Annexure [see Appendix 196, Annexure No. 6]. The following steps have been taken to avoid such delays :

- (i) review of projects on monthly as well as quarterly basis by the Government;
- (ii) in-depth critical review of the progress by the project authorities and the Administrative Ministries, alongwith follow up with the State Governments (for acquisition of land, rehabilitation related issues, expediting of forest clearances and provision of infrastructure facilities like water and power, ensuring law & order at project sites, etc.) consultants and other agencies;
- (iii) setting up of an Empowered Committee in the administrative Ministries concerned for resolution of problems;
- (iv) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving problems of inter-ministerial nature;
- (v) Provision of matching funds in the annual budget on the basis of updated costs to facilitate the completion of the projects in advanced stages of implementation; and
- (vi) High level reviews, including reviews by the Minister-in-charge.

(a) and (d) In order to bring accountability in the execution of projects, Standing Committees have been set up in 25 Ministries/Department, excluding Railways, for projects costing Rs. 50 crore and above, which have reported time and cost overruns. These Committees are headed by Additional Secretary or Joint secretary of the ministry concerned with representatives from Planning Commission, department of Expenditure and Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation. The Standing Committees, set up as per the guidelines of the Planning Commission issued in August, 1998 are mandated to go into the details of time and cost overruns, delineate the areas of responsibility and suggest remedial action. The reports of the Standing Committees are taken into consideration at the time of approval of the revised cost estimates.