

Contract could not be finalised for one block and matter has been closed. Final decision has not been taken in the remaining two blocks.

(c) ONGC has option to acquire an interest of 10% at the beginning of contract and additional 30% at the time of commercial discovery except for the block GK-OSJ-1, where ONGC would have 25% interest from the beginning.

Supply of gas to Pipavav Power Project

999. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a long-standing demand for the supply of gas to Pipavav power project in Gujarat for which the proposal is pending with the Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government of Gujarat has made a number of representations to Government for the supply of gas for this project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by government or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Requests have been received from time to time from Government of Gujarat for allocation of gas to the Pipavav Power Project.

(c) It was decided in 1989 to allocate gas from the yet to be developed Mid & South Tapti fields to a power project to be put up at Pipavav and take gas from Gandhar fields to the HBJ pipeline system. However, subsequently keeping in view the fact that the investment decisions to develop Mid and South Tapti fields were yet to be taken, it was agreed to allocate the Gandhar gas for two gas based power projects of 600 MW each in Gandhar area and to take the gas from Mid & South Tapti fields to meet the

existing commitments along the HBJ pipeline system. The Government of Gujarat have been advised accordingly.

Distinction between poor and non-poor

1000. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how Government distinguish between poor and non-poor;

(b) whether Government are of the view that those who are above the poverty line are non-poor;

(c) whether Government are aware that for a scientific approach of planning it demands categorical distinction in analysis of all segments of society in order to get correct picture of socio economic movement, crisis and potentiality; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK):

(a) The poor are distinguished from the total population on the basis of poverty line, which is defined at national level as monthly per capita consumer expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.65 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas.

(b) The poverty line focusses on the purchasing power needed to meet the specific calorie intake standard with some margin for non-food consumption needs such as clothing, education, shelter, health etc. People with per capita consumption expenditure above the poverty line have the potential to consume the basket of goods and services which ensures a minimum standard of living.

(c) and (d) Successive five year plans have distinguished between various categories of people for the purposes of

formulating appropriate schemes and policies for all round improvement in welfare.

Families below Poverty Line (BPL) in Maharashtra

1001. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than six million families in Maharashtra are below the poverty line (BPL);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government are taking or propose to take to reduce BPL families in Maharashtra within a time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates the number of persons living below the poverty line. As per the latest estimates, 30.522 million persons in Maharashtra are estimated to live below the poverty line in 1993-94. On the basis of average household size of people around the poverty line in rural and urban areas as per the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of 1993-94, the number of families below the poverty line in Maharashtra works out to 6.1 million in 1993-94;

(c) There is a three pronged action against poverty. These are (a) acceleration of economic growth, (b) human and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting the minimum needs, alleviation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society etc. and (c) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and asset building for the poor. The main among these programmes are the Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Nehru Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme, Prime Minis-

ter's Rozgar Yojana, Griha Kalyan Yojana, Urban Basic Services for the poor and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme.

Central aid for Janmabhoomi Programme in Andhra Pradesh

1002. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought Central aid for implementation of Janmabhoomi programmes in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of Andhra Pradesh had sent a proposal seeking for Central aid of Rs. 250 crore for implementation of Janmabhoomi programme in the State. The proposal was discussed on 15th January, 1998 in a meeting held in Planning Commission, wherein the representatives of the Union Ministry of Finance and the Government of Andhra Pradesh were present. The proposal could not be agreed to because of the resource constraints and the state Government was advised to accommodate the programme within their overall approved Plan Outlay.

Population Growth

1003. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during 1994-97 the population growth was 1.89%;

(b) what was the anticipated growth percentage;

(c) what is likely to be the effect of this growth after 15 to 18 years on the population eligible for employment;