

Sector	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)
4. Multi-Media campaign through various units of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting including production of films/spots etc. through Doordarshan	1090.16
5. Photographic work through Press Information Bureau (PIB) etc.	5.42
6. Printing of Manuals/Publicity Material	12.17
7. Press Conferences/tours of Journalists/exhibitions	13.64
8. Publicity through Directorate of Advertising & Publicity (DAVP) under Annual Plan	200.00
Total	Rs. 1382.96

Employees of Haldia Projects of HFC

912. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICAL & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation's Haldia Plant has 1600 employees on a paid holiday for the last 17 years;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether Government have drawn up any scheme to put these employees to some productive use;

(d) if so, main features thereof; and

(e) when the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMLAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (e) The repeated equipment break-down during the commissioning of Haldia Project of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) led to suspension of the project activities in Oct. 1986 as there was uncertainty regarding successful commissioning and viable operation of the project. None of the alternatives subsequently considered in an attempt to revive/rehabilitate the Haldia Project was found viable in view of increasing cost of production.

In the meantime, HFC had been declared a sick company by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Since the revamp of Haldia project was not found to be

techno-economically feasible, it has been decided to attract private capital for its rehabilitation. However, any action with regard to the revival of HFC, including its Haldia Project, is dependent on the outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR.

At present, there are about 1510 employees on the rolls of the Haldia Project. Their services are utilised for plant preservation, idle run of a host of moving machinery, maintenance of essential services and utilities the factory and township, upkeep of running sections like liquid ammonia unloading, storage, handling and transfer, supply of water of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.'s Refinery and deputation of engineering personnel to other plants/industries.

Proposal regarding scrapping of All India Minorities Commission

913. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY :
SHRI T. VENKATIRAM REDDY :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government have been drawn to the public statement of the Chairman of the All India Minorities Commission made at Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh, in which he has demanded the scrapping of the Commission as it has failed to render justice to the Minorities;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether it is being proposed to scrap the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b) The matter is being enquired.

(c) No, Sir.

National Maternity Benefit Scheme in Maharashtra

914. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) how many women have so far been benefited from the National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) in Maharashtra after the implementation of the scheme; district-wise; and

(b) what action Government have taken or propose to take to extend NMBS in the entire rural Maharashtra within a time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Sugarcane Price

915. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the State-wise sugarcane price advised by various State Governments during 1995-96 season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN) : As per the latest information available, the State Government of Bihar has announced Rs. 71 per quintal as State Advised Sugarcane Price for 1995-96 Season. Similarly, the range of State Advised Sugarcane Price announced by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh is Rs. 70 to Rs. 74 per quintal.

Proposal to Transfer Mahabodhi Temple to Neo-Buddhists

916. SHRI K.R. MALKANI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the National Minorities Commission has recommended the

transfer of Mahabodhi temple, Bodhgaya to Neo-Buddhists, contrary to the tradition of ages (vide Pioneer, 12.2.96);

(b) whether Buddhists, old or new, are not in law and in fact part of Hindu society; and

(c) whether a subject like this falls within the jurisdiction of NMC?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) to (c) Buddhists have been notified as a minority community for the purpose of National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. Under Section 9(1) (c) of this Act the National Commission for Minorities has made recommendation to the Central Government for enactment of a suitable and appropriate legislation to vest the management of the Bodhgaya temple exclusively in the Buddhists community.

Cost escalation of Assam Gas Cracker Project

917. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of Assam Gas Cracker Project has since escalated;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have since made necessary provision therefor;

(d) what is the date upto which such delaying issues are to be sorted out to enable the project activities to start; and

(e) what steps Government like to take in the event of the said project becoming unviable because of delays and cost escalation etc.?

THE MINISTER FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) The cost of the Assam Gas cracker project is now estimated to be around Rs. 3400 crores.

(c) Appropriate funding scheme for implementing the project is required to be made by the project authorities.

(d) and (e) The project of 2 lakh TPA ethylene capacity with a central capital subsidy of Rs. 377 crores and provision of gas at concessional price of Rs. 600 per thousand standard cubic meters for a period of fifteen years