

Department for the purpose of Computer Education;

(c) whether the Certificates of Proficiency in Computer Education given to students who have undergone training in Computers in such schools, should contain reference of the Department of Electronics who have sponsored the projects;

(d) whether the Department would supply literature in computer education and other course material to such schools; and

(e) what other steps would be taken to encourage such schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme, the Department of Electronics has promoted five electronics projects to create awareness about their productive applications and to promote their usage in schools/colleges etc. and in the respective areas. As mentioned in the Brochure on 'Guidelines on Implementation of Electronics Projects', the Department of Electronics provides the necessary technical assistance and guidance to facilitate implementation of these projects.

(b) No, Sir. There is no provision for recognition of schools for the purpose of computer education in the guidelines issued for implementation of electronics projects under MPLAD Scheme by the Department of Electronics. However, under a separate scheme namely, the Department of Electronics-Accreditation of Computer Courses (DOEACC), computer training institutes in the non-formal sector (private/public) subject to meeting well defined norms and criteria, are given accreditation for conducting specified level of computer courses viz. 'O' (Foundation) 'A' (Advanced

Diploma), 'B' (Graduate) and 'C' (Post-Graduate).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Literature and other relevant course material in computer education may be provided by Schools to students under the MPLAD Scheme.

(e) the proposal to revise the existing Guidelines on Implementation of Electronics Projects is under consideration of the Government of India.

ONGC and BPCL, Joint Venture for Manufacturing Xylene, Benzene, etc.

*565. SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC and BPCL are planning a joint venture company for manufacturing Xylene, Benzene, etc;

(b) whether evaluation of the project has been made keeping in view all established parameters, including indigenously available capacity;

(c) whether the proposed capacity of the plant is 275,000 tonnes which is not viable in comparison to internationally recognised capacity of 4000,000 tonnes, particularly in view of current APM price of Naphtha;

(d) whether ONGC has no expertise in this field; if so, the reasons for going in for this venture; and

(e) whether Government would consider all aspects before granting approval for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited are conducting discussions for arriving at a Memorandum of Understanding for setting up of a Joint Venture Company to implement a grass-root paraxylene project at Hazira in Gujarat.

(b) ONGC has done a preliminary evaluation of the project in accordance with the established parameters.

(c) The proposed capacity of the joint venture project is—

Paraxylene	275,000 TPA
Orthoxylene	55,000 TPA
Benzene	300,000 TPA

(d) ONGC has the capability to execute the project. In order to diversify its areas of operation to provide a source of stable revenue generation, ONGC has submitted a proposal for setting up a petrochemical project.

(e) There is an established procedure for granting approvals for such projects which will be followed in this case also.

Allocation of Funds for the States of North Eastern Region

*566. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the States of North Eastern Region during the current Five Year Plan period State-wise;

(b) whether the allocation to these States is less than that of other developed States in the country; and

(c) whether the funds allotted to North East Council have been deducted from the allotted funds of the concerned States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The North Eastern States are categorised as special category States and are being given special dispensation in allocation of Central Assistance. As a result, per capita allocation of Central Assistance during the Eighth Plan period of the North Eastern States is relatively higher than that of non special category States. The details of gross as well as per capita Central Assistance for North

Eastern and other States is at Annexure-I. (See Appendix 178, Annexure No. 92)

(c) No Sir. Funds allocated to the North Eastern Council are in addition to the plan assistance given to the North Eastern States.

Extension of 66 KV line in Kolar District

*567. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has urged the Central Government to convert the existing 66 KV line into 200 KV line in Kolar district to help famine-hit farmers in getting proper power supply for their irrigation pumpsets; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES: (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) ; (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

बंजरभूमि विकास में निजी क्षेत्र का सहयोग

568. श्री अजीत जोगी:

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा:

क्या प्राथमिक क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या वाणिज्य उद्योग मंडल में बंजरभूमि विकास हेतु गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र को शामिल करने की मांग की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उन्होंने यह सुझाव दिया है कि भूमि का आवंटन दीर्घावधिक पट्टे पर किया जाए ताकि बढ़ती हुई जनसंख्या की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए इसे कृषि योग्य बनाया जा सके;

(ग) मध्य प्रदेश वाणिज्य उद्योग मंडल ने कितने सुझाव दिए हैं;