

(c) the assessment of the gas reserves by him after analysis of the seismic data; and

(d) what is Government's time-bound action plan to estimate the reserves and to commercially tap the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURALGAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir, Dr. Y. Mokogon was shown a few seismic lines of deep water areas of the Arabian sea and Bay of Bengal to elicit his opinion about gas hydrates.

(c) Dr. Mokogon was of the view that Gas hydrates will be in the deep water areas of western and eastern coast of India. However, no quantitative assessment of gas reserves from gas hydrates has been possible with the limited data available.

(d) A preliminary study of Gas hydrates in deep water areas of India is being taken up and the quantum of Gas hydrate reserves can be assessed after the completion of this and subsequent studies. Action is also in hand to acquire the expertise from overseas agencies known to be leaders in the field of Gas hydrate studies.

#### **Schemes to Assist Rural Artisans**

1254. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any schemes to assist poorer sections of artisans like weavers, potters and other people, following trades in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes and the financial assistance provided to such rural craftsmen;

(c) whether Government propose to modify the schemes to suit local requirements; and

(d) whether the DRDA has authority in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. This Ministry is implementing the scheme of

Improved Tool Kits to Rural Artisans like potters, carpenters, cobblers, stone craftsmen, blacksmiths etc. except weavers, tailors, needle workers and 'Bidi' workers.

(b) Under the Scheme, the rural artisans living below the poverty line are to be given improved tools to enable them to enhance the quality/quantity/marketability of their products and reduce their drudgery.

The average cost of a tool kits is Rs. 2000 and the exact unit cost is to be fixed by the DRDA concerned. The artisans are required to contribute 10% of the cost of the tool kits as their contribution with the balance 90% being met as subsidy from the Government of India. The use of power driven toolkits upto the cost of Rs. 4500 has also been permitted under the scheme. Beyond this, it should be linked to loan under IRDP. At the district level the DRDA is the nodal Agency.

Financial assistance provided to rural craftsman since inception of the scheme is as under:-

Year	Financial Assistance provided (Rs. in crores)
1992-93	16.85
1993-94	23.22
1994-95	29.00
1995-96	40.00

(c) At present there is no such proposal to modify the present scheme.

(d) Question does not arise.

#### **Encouraging private builders in Construction of Houses**

1255. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the housing problem in urban areas particularly in Delhi, Government propose to encourage private builders in construction of houses;

(b) if so, the present housing policy of Government in this regard; and

(c) to what extent the problem of housing in urban areas would be solved by assigning the task to private builders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (DR. V. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Private developers have a crucial role to play in housing and shelter development. The public sector accounts for only 10% of the housing activity and the rest 90% is done in the private sector of which a sizeable component is performed by the organised private developers and builders. The National Housing Policy stipulates that the private developers and the organised sector will be encouraged to invest in various forms of housing and land development by access to finance, speedier approval of schemes and other forms of support, removal of constraints to assembly and development of land, while they will be induced to devote a significant proportion of the investment in housing for lower and middle income groups at affordable prices and conform to non-exploitative practices.

Larger investment by the private sector within this policy framework would have significant impact on the overall housing development in urban areas.

#### **Review of Integrated Wasteland Development Project in Maharashtra**

1256. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE. Will the MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State level Monitoring and Review Committee, to have an indepth review of progress of the Integrated Wasteland Development Project Schemes has been constituted in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any report has been submitted by the said Committee during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Maharashtra State Water Conservation & Wastelands Development Advisory Council has been formed under the Chairmanship of the

Chief Minister to review and advise the Government on issues pertaining to Water & land use, Wasteland Development, Water Conservation, Water resources, National Watershed Development, Horticulture & River Valley Project. The Council includes Ministers for Water Conservation, Irrigation, Rural Development, Forests and other non-official members. Secretary (Water Conservation) is the Member Secretary of the Council.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable.

#### **Transfer of Ownership of Properties in Chittaranjan Park, Delhi**

1257. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the land allotted to refugees of erstwhile East Pakistan in the Chittaranjan Park areas of Delhi was stipulated to be of a non transferable nature;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of a lot of transfers in ownership taking place through the power of attorney; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. However after the expiry of 10 years and payment of 50% of the unearned increase, transfer of properties is available. Further, on payment of charges as prescribed under the Scheme conservation of leasehold tenure into freehold benefit of conservation scheme is also available to a person who purchased plot/property through General Power of Attorney/Sale Agreement.

#### **परमाणु विद्युत संयंत्रों का विस्तार**

1258. श्री विपिनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार और परमाणु विद्युत निगम, परमाणु विद्युत संयंत्रों का विस्तार करने का विचार रखते हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी व्यौरा क्या है;