

Defence projects running behind schedule

*127. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of projects including the joint venture projects of the Ministry its PSUs and subordinate offices costing over Rs. 20 crore or more running behind schedule;
- (b) the reasons for the delay and the total estimated loss to the exchequer; and
- (c) the changes proposed in these projects to complete them expeditiously and to save expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Protection of jobs of displaced persons due to global economic melt down

*128. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) how many workers in the country have lost their jobs due to the recent global economic melt down;
- (b) the Ministry's estimation about the job losses in the country in the current year because of this; and
- (c) the steps contemplated to protect jobs and help the displaced workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. However, with a view to assess impact of economic slowdown on employment in the industries/sectors presumed to be adversely affected by the slowdown during the period October, 2008 — January, 2009, Ministry of Labour and Employment carried out a survey in important sectors, viz. Mining, Textiles, Metals, Gems and Jewellery, Automobile, Transport and IT/BPO. These sectors contributed more than 60% to GDP in the year 2007-08. It has been revealed that about 5.89 lakh workers have lost their jobs during October, 2008 — January, 2009. The major impact of the slowdown is noticed in the export oriented units.

(c) Government is concerned about the impact of global financial crises on the Indian economy and several measures — financial and fiscal — have been initiated to instill confidence in the economy, spur growth and overcome crisis. Some of the important steps relate to RBI measures to enhance liquidity in the market and two economic packages by the Government of India, mainly comprising additional spending, interest subvention and excise duty cuts. These measures will prevent large scale Job losses. In order to provide a social safety net, with effect

from 01-04-2005, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation has introduced "Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana". Under the scheme, employees who lose their employment due to retrenchment, closure of factories/establishments or permanent invalidity due to non-employment injury, after being insured for five or more years, are entitled to unemployment allowance in cash equal to 50% of their wage for six months during his/her entire service. This entitlement has recently been increased to one year. In addition, he and his family members are also entitled to medical care.

A new scheme called 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)' announced in August, 2008 for implementation from 2008-09 to 2012-13 is being implemented with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 4735 crore towards margin money and Rs. 250 crore towards backward forward linkages with the target for generation of 37.37 lakh additional employment opportunities.

Proposal from States on coastal security

*129. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received schemes/proposals from various States regarding comprehensive schemes on coastal security including Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating therein the names of the States which had forwarded the proposal; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A comprehensive Coastal Security Scheme was approved in January, 2005 for implementation over a five year period commencing 2005-06. The scheme was formulated on the basis of the recommendations of the Group of Minister on 'Reforming the National Security System', and in consultation with all agencies concerned and State Governments, including Tamil Nadu.

The Coastal Security Scheme, which is supplemental in nature, aims at enhancing coastal security by strengthening infrastructure for patrolling and surveillance of the coastal areas. It is being implemented in nine coastal States, viz. Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal, and four coastal Union Territories, viz. Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Under the Scheme, 73 coastal police stations, 97 check posts 58 outposts and 30 operational barracks have been approved. The Police Stations will be provided with 204 patrol boats fitted with modern navigational and maritime equipment for patrolling in coastal waters, and 153 jeeps and 312 motorcycles for patrolling along the coast. A lump sum assistance of Rs. 10 lakhs per police station is also provided for computers and equipments, etc.

The approved five-year outlay for the Scheme is Rs. 400 crores for non-recurring expenditure and Rs. 151 crores for recurring expenditure on fuel, maintenance and repairs of vessels and training of personnel.