

[3rd August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

development strategy so as to ensure the unity and integrity of the nation. Since not all parts of the country are equally well endowed to take the advantage of growth opportunities, and since historical inequalities have not been eliminated, planned intervention is required to ensure that large regional imbalances do not occur. In respect of the North-Eastern Region where benefits of economic development have not accrued in the same measure as in the rest of the country, efforts are being made through supportive measures for the development of infrastructure, both physical and social, in order to enable the North-Eastern States to join the mainstream of the economic development of the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The announcements of the former Prime Minister regarding New Initiatives and also the recent announcements of the present Prime Minister at Shillong regarding socio-economic agenda for the North-Eastern Region, which include a number of infrastructure projects to be implemented in the Region are steps in this direction. In pursuance of these announcements, a Central Pool of Resources has been made operational since 1998-99 for funding specific viable projects, especially those associated with physical and social infrastructure in the North-Eastern States and Sikkim. Funds have been released since then from the Pool for various projects in the North Eastern States and Sikkim.

(b) and (c) Greater stress has, therefore, been laid on development of physical and social infrastructure, agriculture and allied sectors and also rural development through various Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

#### **Projects for the development of Andhra Pradesh**

1376. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh during the brief meeting with him in the last week of June, 2000 had requested for several projects relating to the development of the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps, if any, have so far been taken in this regard and by when are these projects likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the visit of the Prime Minister to Hyderabad on 22nd June, 2000, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh submitted a memorandum listing several issues for consideration by the Government of India. There are two proposals specially relating to development of Andhra Pradesh mentioned in the memorandum whose status is given in the Statement (See below). The rest of the proposals involve taking of policy decisions for the country as a whole.

#### Statement

#### *Proposals for the development of Andhra Pradesh as submitted in the Memorandum*

Project	Status
Request for locating the National Institute of Smart Government at Hyderabad.	The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) would set up the Institute of Smart Government in the private sector where the Government would be represented in the Governing Body of the Institute. The NASSCOM was accordingly requested to prepare and send their proposal for setting up of the Institute. The proposal from NASSCOM is awaited.
Request to locate headquarters of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) at Hyderabad.	The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) was functioning so far with its headquarters at Delhi. After the notification of IRDA, it is proposed to continue this position and review a change in headquarters after some time.