

Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi

20. Director, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly

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Production of Steel by Private Steel Plant under the Liberalised Steel Policy

*54. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Policy has been liberalised allowing private steel plants to produce upto one million tonnes of steel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to allow creation of additional steel making capacity in the private sector with unit capacity upto one million tonnes based on electric arc furnace/energy optimising technologies including small blast furnaces. Entrepreneurs will have the option to decide the plant size keeping in view the product mix and technology to be adopted.

Rise in Government Borrowings and External Debt

*55. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of rise in Government borrowings and total external debt as on date (in foreign exchange);

(b) that percentage of foreign borrowings went towards debt servicing and what percentage of export earnings is used for debt servicing annually;

(c) what are the priorities, if any, for reducing Government expenditure stating the areas identified for the purpose and whether Government subsidies are proposed to be reduced; and

(d) what is the overall picture likely to emerge as a consequence thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) There has been an increase of about 16 per cent in Government borrowings (domestic plus external) during 1989-90 over that of 1988-89. The total external debt outstanding as on 31.3.1990 is estimated to be US \$ 46751 million equivalent to Rs. 80132 crores at the prevailing exchange rate. The total debt service payment (i.e. repayment of principal and payment of interest) is estimated to be 21.6 percent of country's exports and gross invisible earnings.

(c) and (d) All Ministries have been advised to make sustained efforts for reducing burden of administrative expenditure and exercise careful scrutiny of all ongoing programmes and schemes. Steps have also been taken to closely monitor expenditure so as to ensure that it does not exceed the budgetary targets. The Government will present to Parliament a review of the budgetary position every four months of the current year.

Supply of Water to Bangladesh from Farakka Barrage

*56. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the quantity of water released to Bangladesh during the last three years, yearwise from Farakka Barrage;

(b) whether the quantity has been

increased or decreased after the recent visit of the External Affairs Minister to Dhaka; and

(c) what are the details of the new agreement relating to sharing of water with Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) The quantity of water released downstream of Farakka Barrage during January to May of last three years is as follows:

(i) 1988	11.8 million acre ft.
(ii) 1989	12.6 million acre ft.
(iii) 1990	10.9 million acre ft.

(b) and (c) As New Agreement has not been concluded, the releases have been in an ad hoc manner.

Constitution of a Tribunal to settle Cauvery Water dispute

*57. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have referred the Cauvery Water dispute to a Tribunal to be presided over by a serving Judge of a High Court;

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference of the Tribunal along with the names of the other members, if any;

(c) what is the reaction of concerned States thereto; and

(d) by when the Tribunal is likely to submit its findings to the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Tribunal has been constituted with Shri Justice Chittatosh Mookerjee, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court as the Chairman and Shri Justice S. D. Agarwal, Judge of the Allahabad High Court and Shri Justice N. S. Rao, Judge

of Patna High Court as Members. The request made by the Government of Tamil Nadu under Section 3 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, has been referred to the Tribunal for adjudication.

(c) All the four basin States have nominated their representatives for the work before the Tribunal and all the four States were present on the day of the 1st hearing held by the Tribunal on 28.7.1990.

(d) No time limit has been fixed.

Export Drive

*58. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently selected certain product groups to augment export drive; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what incentives/facilities are proposed to be provided to them to increase exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) Identification of Thrust Sectors based on India's comparative advantage for export promotion is a continuous process. The broad sectors identified for special thrusts in markets abroad are as under:—

1. Tea, especially in package and value-added forms;
2. Cereals, in particular wheat;
3. Processed foods, including fruits and juices, meat and meat products, and fresh fruits & vegetables;
4. Marine products, especially in value added forms;
5. Iron ore;
6. Leather and Leather manufactures with an emphasis on the latter;
7. Handicrafts and Jewellery;
8. Capital goods and consumer durables;
9. Electronics goods and computer software;
10. Basic chemicals;
11. Fabrics piece-goods and made-ups;
12. Readymade Garments;
13. Woollen fabrics and knitwear;
14. Projects and services; and
15. Granite.