

M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) and (b) It has been decided to allocate gas for two new gas based power stations in the Krishna-Godavari Basin, one to be set up by NTPC and the other to be set up in the State Sector. This is subject to confirmation that APSEB would be in a position to allocate adequate funds for implementing the project.

(c) Does not arise.

Funds made available to Andhra Pradesh Government for family welfare programme

1330. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested for the release of 75 per cent amount on ad hoc basis out of the total amount of Rs. 27.98 crores which is due from the Central Government under Family Welfare Programme till the furnishing of requisite certificates ; and

(b) if so, what is Central Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The grants-in-aid for implementation of National Family Welfare Programme are provisional which is subject to adjustment only on receipt of audited statement of expenditure from the Accountant General of the State. The State Government has been advised to request the Accountant General of the State to furnish requisite certificates expeditiously to enable the Central Govt. to further process the case of release of arrears.

Clearance of Amguri gas-based power project in Assam

1331. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present position of the Amguri gas-based power project in Assam ;

(b) whether Government have given clearance to the said project ; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) : (a) to (c) The proposal for installation of Amguri Gas-based Power Project (8x30 MW + 4x30 MW) has been accorded techno-economic clearance of the Central Electricity Authority, subject to establishment of fuel linkage on sustained basis, finalisation of adequate transmission system for transmitting energy within the North Eastern Region and from that region to other power deficit region. The project has received clearance from environmental angle, subject to certain safeguards.

Setting up of a National Cancer Institute in Assam

1332. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the setting up of a National Cancer Institute in Assam ;

(b) if so, what is the present position in this regard ; and

(c) by when the said Institute is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Marketing of products of small scale industrial units through Consortium

1333. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to organise the marketing of the products produced by small scale industrial units with a common brand name through a consortium; and

(b) whether Government would take steps to increase the number of items reserved for small scale sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) Products of small scale industries have been identified which can be sold under a common brand name. The small scale units are also being encouraged to organise their own consortium and market their products under a common brand name.

(b) The Government is reviewing the list of items reserved for the small scale sector with a view to increase the number of reserved items in the light of suggestions received from various small scale industries Associations. This is a continuous process.

Centralised Drug Testing Agency

1334. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will ensure more effective and efficient quality control of all drugs to protect public interest;

(b) whether Government are aware that the present testing system is totally inadequate; and

(c) whether in view of large scale inter-State movement of drugs all drug testing will be put under the Centre and some percentage would be charged on all drug production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD):

(a) and (b) Quality control is exercised over all drugs manufactured and sold in the country by State Drugs Controllers under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act. Drugs can be manufactured only against a manufacturing licence issued by the State Licensing Authority after satisfying that the conditions of licences are being complied with.

Every State Government is required to have adequate number of Drug Inspectors and a testing laboratory for monitoring the quality of drugs manufactured and sold in the State by means of random sampling by drugs inspectors.

Only 4 States however have full-fledged testing laboratories, 10 States have partial facilities whereas 10 States/UTs have no testing facilities. Central Laboratories namely viz. Central Drugs Laboratory, Calcutta and Central Indian Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Ghaziabad assist these States/UTs for testing of samples drawn by Drug Inspectors.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.