

have been instructed to keep a strict watch over the expenditure and to review their programmes and schemes with a view to eliminating inessential items of expenditure.

Affairs of Hindustan Diamond Company

342. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Diamond Company has established any liaison office in Delhi;

(b) whether this office is doing any liaison work on behalf of the South African Company, De Beers in Delhi; and

(c) whether it is a fact that though Hindustan Diamond Company is not engaged in exports, its Chairman is a permanent invitee at the meetings of the working Committee of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Shri S.N. Sharma, Chairman & Managing Director, Hindustan Diamond Company Ltd. is one of the nominees of the Govt. on the Working Committee of the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council.

Promotion of SC candidates in the office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)

343. SHRI T.R. BALU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two senior officers in the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handi-

crafts) belonging to Scheduled Castes were dropped while nominating officers as Government Directors on the Board of State Handicrafts Corporations; and

(b) if so, whether this action is in consonance with Government's policy of encouraging Scheduled Castes/Tribes for promotional purpose and if not, what corrective steps are proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir, It is true, but only coincidental, that two officers belonging to Scheduled Caste who were earlier Directors in certain State Corporations were not renominated on the Boards of State Handicrafts Corporations. The renomination was part of a routine exercise undertaken from time to time to decide which officer will represent Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) in the State Handicrafts Corporations. There is no policy of special representation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe in so far as officers are nominated to represent the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) on the Boards of State/Central Handicrafts Development Corporation. However, one of the officers in the list of renominated Directors does belong to Scheduled Caste.

Dialogue with ABSU for separate State in Assam

344. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to initiate dialogue with the All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) regarding their demand for a separate Bodo State; and

(b) if so what steps have been taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) While the Central Govt. have not been in favour of further re-organisation of Assam, the State Govt. have been advised to initiate a meaningful dialogue with representatives bodies of the Plains Tribals with a view to removing genuine grievances of the tribals and to look into developmental needs of the area with a sense of urgency. The State Govt. have held discussions with a number of Plains Tribals Organisations including one group of ABSU. At the invitation of the State Govt. a Central Observer was also present in the series of talks starting from 14th June, 1989.

Teesta Multipurpose Project

345. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of the Teesta Multipurpose Project has considerably slowed down due to the lack of financial resources;

(b) what is Centre's share of finance in this project;

(c) whether West Bengal Government has requested the Central Government to bear fifty per cent cost of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB) : (a) and (b) Central assistance is given to the States in the form of block loans/grants and is not tied to any sector of development or any individual project. However, special Central assistance of Rs. 5 crores in

1983-84 and advance plan assistance of Rs. 25 crores in 1986-87 and 1987-88 was provided to the Teesta Barrage Project.

(c) and (d) The Chief Minister of West Bengal has recently written for a special assistance of Rs. 96 crores for 1989-90 and to share the balance cost of the project from the beginning of Eighth Plan on 50 : 50 ratio. The matter is under examination.

Haldia Petro-chemical Project

346. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of West Bengal met him in June last demanding early clearance of the Haldia Petrochemical project;

(b) if so, what has been the outcome of the discussion; and

(c) by when it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) to (c) Against background of the discussion held with Chief Minister of West Bengal in June, 1989, certain aspects relating to the project have to be further looked into.

Projects from Andhra Pradesh pending clearance

347. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) how many project proposals from Andhra Pradesh Government have been cleared during the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) how many projects from Andhra Pradesh are pending at present for clearance;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in their clearance; and