

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a proposal seeking early in-principle clearance of the above project has been received by Planning Commission;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry would ensure early in-principle clearance of the project which is lingering from the Ninth Plan of NEC; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) to (e) The matter has again been received from NEC on 5.6.2009 and the proposal is under active consideration of the Planning Commission.

Special category status to States

82. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government is considering the demand of Orissa, Rajasthan and Bihar to declare these States are special category States considering their backwardness, poverty and under development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Recently a request has been received for providing 'Special Category Status' to Bihar which is under examination. No proposal is under consideration of the Government at present to declare Orissa and Rajasthan as Special Category States.

Economic growth of country

83. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission Deputy Chairperson, who returned from meeting of the Global Bankers in Washington, reportedly said that India's Economic Growth for 2008-09 would be 6 per cent not 7 per cent as projected earlier by India;

(b) whether he blamed the slow down in the manufacturing sector as a main cause for the fall in the economic growth which was close to 9 per cent in 2007-08; and

(c) if so, the steps the Planning Commission and the RBI have taken so far to reverse the trend and provide impetus to the manufacturing sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) and (b) The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, represented India at the meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in London on 12 – 16 March, 2009. Responding to various questions after the event, the Deputy Chairman had expressed the view that for the year 2008-09 the rate of growth of the Indian economy is likely to be lower than the earlier projections of around 7 per cent and may be around 6.5 per cent due to the on-going global economic slowdown. To restore our economic growth, decisive, coordinated and comprehensive action to boost demand and jobs would be needed.

(c) The Government and RBI have taken both fiscal and monetary measures in order to restore the growth momentum, including measures for providing impetus to manufacturing