

- (iii) Placing results of tenders awarded with names of the successful tenderers and rates etc. on website to ensure transparency.
- (iv) Examination of
 - (a) Internal Audit Report
 - (b) CAG Audit Report
 - (c) Observations of inspections by Chief Technical Examiner of CVC.
- (v) In-Depth study of
 - (a) Handling and Transport Contracts.
 - (b) Purchase procedures in FCI
- (vi) Monitoring Progress of disposal of complaints and vigilance cases.
 - (a) Surveillance of officers with doubtful Integrity. These officers are not posted in sensitive positions to avoid any scope of corruption.
- (vii) Use of computers, payment through ECS, restrictions on payment in cash.
- (viii) Up-gradation of mechanical weighbridges to Electronic Weighbridges.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIYA: Sir, I would like to compliment the Minister for the very, very exhaustive answer and also for asking McKinsey to come and give open-ended suggestions on how best the FCI can improve its efficiency.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please. We are running out of time.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIYA: Sir, with that in mind, the Minister has stated that amongst the recommendations of McKinsey is smart trading approach for global trading in foodgrains. I would like to ask the Minister: is the Foodgrain Management Policy now open to buying from the international market as and when there is a need, realising that the volatility in the international market has reduced and we have sufficient foreign exchange reserves.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, we have to protect the interests of farmers and in such a situation it is difficult to accept the suggestion to allow or make open-ended import of anything.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of power plant at Nabinagar, Bihar

*406. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) when was it proposed to form a joint venture with NTPC for setting up of a 1000 MW power plant at Nabinagar, Bihar;

(b) the original project schedule for completion and commissioning of the project; and

(c) the present status of the project, *viz.* construction and tentative date of commissioning?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with NTPC on 18.2.2002 for exploring possibilities of setting up Joint Venture Captive Power Plant. Indian Railways have formed Bhartiya Rail Bijlee Company on 22.11.2007 in Joint Venture with NTPC for setting up 1000 MW capacity power plant at Nabinagar.

(b) The original project scheduled for completion and commissioning was by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(c) The Contract of main plant (Steam and Turbine) has been placed on 22.01.2008. Out of 1400 Acre land, 750 Acre land has been acquired on date and balance is expected to be acquired by the end of October, 2009. The plant is expected to be operational by beginning of Twelfth Five Year Plan.

Present status of Kuttanad package in Kerala

*407. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competent Authority has approved the Kuttanad package in Kerala based on the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation Report;

(b) if so, the present status including the schemes sanctioned and the schemes suggested for redrafting;

(c) whether the unique ecosystem prevailing in the Kuttanad area will be considered and the report will be taken as a package for the purpose of implementation;

(d) if so, whether special assistance for implementation of the package will be granted with reasonably relaxed guidelines; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has granted "in-principle" approval for providing financial support involving financial outlay of Rs. 1,840.75 crore for implementing various programmes/interventions suggested by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai for development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-system.

(b) Government of Kerala has so far submitted 41 projects amounting to Rs. 399.11 crores under Kuttanad package. Ministry of Environment and Forests has sanctioned one project relating to measures for augmenting biodiversity in the backwaters involving an amount of Rs. 37.85 lakhs of which Rs. 15.75 lakh has been released during 2008-09. Ministry of Water Resources has approved a research study by IIT, Chennai involving amount of Rs. 35 lakh for