

Cost escalation of projects

2756. DR. GYAN PRAKASH P1LANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has estimated the escalation cost of 925 projects costing Rs.20 crore or more each and 423 of these projects -or nearly 50 per cent -have been delayed by between six months and two years, cost overruns in the 423 projects is close to Rs.45,500 crore, 17 per cent of the original cost of Rs.2,46,070 crore;

(b) whether the 2000 MW nuclear power plant at Kadankula, Tamil Nadu alone, delayed by 18 months, has seen a price escalation of Rs.3796 crore; and

(c) whether any accountability has been fixed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) As on 30.06.2009, out of 951 central sector projects costing Rs. 20 crore and above on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation is estimated to cost Rs.607,188 crore, 474 projects, which is about 50%, have been delayed with respect to their original schedule. The cost overrun in these delayed projects is of the order of Rs. 42,014 crore which is 13.52% of the original cost of Rs.310,178 crore.

(b) and (c) According to Nuclear Power Corporation of India, the expenditure on Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project, as of October, 2009, is Rs.12446 crore as compared to the approved completion cost of Rs.13171 crore. The projects is being executed in technical cooperation with Russian Federation and all equipment is in Russian scope of supply. There has been delay in supply of equipment/components from the Russian Federation. The matter has been taken up with Russian Federation at the highest level of Government on several occasions.

Exploitation of tribals

2757. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that tribals have been exploited by the politicians, contractors and industrialists by grabbing their land;

(b) whether Government is also aware of the fact that the tribals, who are the indigenous people, are still out of the mainstream of the country;

(c) whether their children do not get good education, their adult men and women do not get employment and their old people do not receive healthcare facilities; and

(d) if so, the steps visualized for their rehabilitation and welfare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHAR BHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribals Affairs is concerned only with the Scheduled Tribes (ST). This Ministry has no report from any State regarding exploitation of Scheduled Tribes by the politicians, contractors and industrialists, by grabbing their land.

The Scheduled Tribes are at different stages of social, economic and educational development. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements various programmes aimed at ameliorating their condition and creating a conducive environment, thereby enabling them to participate in all spheres of life. Further development efforts are carefully directed towards the particularly vulnerable section amongst the STs, through implementing a 100% Central Sector Scheme for their exclusive development, keeping in view their socio-cultural environment.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs supplements the efforts of the line Ministries through implementation of various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, in order to improve the socio-economic condition of the Scheduled Tribes, covering various parameters like education, employment and healthcare. This is borne out by an increase in literacy rate, gross enrolment ratio and a reduction in the drop out rate at the primary, elementary and secondary stages of education, since 1991, and increase in work participation rate for STs vis-a-vis the total population as per 2001 Census. Further, the Government of India has launched the National Rural Health Mission for providing basic healthcare for the entire country with special focus on SCs/STs, etc. Also, in order to bring the STs at par with others and enhance their Human Development Index, Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements a Special Programme, in which Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution are provided to all ST populated States for taking up projects for bridging the critical gaps in infrastructure in tribal areas.

Relaxation in scholarship for STs

2758. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the ST students not getting relaxation for scholarship for higher education alike the minorities community students as introduced by the Central Government;

(b) if so, whether Government would implement the same for the ST students with an urgent basis; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor despite the literacy rate of STs is less than minority communities in Orissa specially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHAR CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs already has four schemes of scholarship for