

Committee. PYKKA scheme is being administered at village/block panchayats through the State Governments. Village/block panchayats may involve 'NYK clubs' to manage the sports activities in their PYKKA playfields.

Impact of Iran Problem

*125 SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government is studying the impact of Iran problem on our country;
- (b) if so, the sectors, which would directly or indirectly be affected due to this;
- (c) the steps that have been taken by Government to deal with any adverse impacts on our country in the future; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) :
(a) to (d) Government is studying the impact on India of the problems that have arisen due to imposition of sanctions against Iran.

The UN sanctions against Iran call for restricting transfers relating to technology and items relating to the nuclear and missile fields to Iran. Apart from UN sanctions, other countries/group of countries like US/EU have imposed unilateral sanctions on Iran. The sanctions imposed by US and EU on Iran target its alleged nuclear weapons programme. These sanctions have specifically targeted Iran's banking and oil sectors, which have an impact on bilateral trade, particularly in the energy sector. Iran is an important source of oil for India. Indian companies have faced difficulties in making payments for crude oil and other imports from Iran through international banking channels.

Government implements its obligations under the UN Security Council Resolutions on Iran. We continue to maintain that we are bound by UN sanctions and unilateral sanctions imposed by countries or group of countries should not impact legitimate trade relations with Iran. India is in discussions with Iran to ensure prompt settlement of payments and uninterrupted supply of crude oil. Moreover, to strengthen the country's energy security and to reduce its dependence on any particular region of the world, India has been consciously trying to diversify its sources of crude oil imports to ensure energy security for the country.

Report of Restructuring of SCSP/TSP

*126 DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the stand of the Ministry on the Planning Commission Task Force Report on the restructuring of Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP)/Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)

exempting several Union Ministries from making financial provision for the SCSP/TSP;

- (b) whether the Ministry has taken up the matter to the Planning Commission;
- (c) if so, the response of the Planning Commission; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : (a) to (d) Planning Commission has accepted the recommendation of the Task Force set up by it to the effect that obligation of various Central Ministries under Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP)/Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) should be fixed in a differentiated manner, looking to the nature of their work.

It is quite appropriate to fix Ministry-wise obligation to earmark less or more than population-proportionate outlay under SCSP such that, over-all outlay under SCSP is population-proportionate.

Steel Production in Plants

*127. SHRI R.C. SINGH :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether even after six years of MoU for setting up of steel plants in the country, production has not started in any of the plants;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Ministry has stipulated any time-frame for starting the production;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the role of the Ministry with regard to the MoU and commencement of production?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) No, Sir. As per the available information, a number of new steel capacities have come into operation. The steel capacity in the country has increased from 56.84 MTPA (March, 2007) to about 88 MTPA presently.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) to (e) Steel is a de-regulated sector. Ministry of Steel does not stipulate any time frame for starting production in the individual steel units. It is purely project specific outcome which depends on many factors like availability of finance, conditions of the market and other techno-commercial parameters in addition to progress on the fronts of land acquisition, raw material linkages, forest and environment clearances etc.