

Drinking water scheme for Chennai

***299. S.M. LALJAN BASHA:** Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved/sanctioned a drinking water scheme from the desalination process for Chennai city recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the viability of this project;

(d) whether Government would clear such projects for all the sea-based cities and towns; and

(e) the details of the criteria to be fulfilled for such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) A project concept note was received from Government of Tamil Nadu in April, 2004 for setting up of 300 MLD Desalination Plant at Chennai. Details of the project are yet to be finalized.

(d) and (e) in his speech while presenting the Budget 2004-05, the Finance Minister has announced the proposal for installation of Desalination Plants near Chennai and other places along the Coromandal coast. In pursuance of the said announcement, the Ministry of Urban Development has advised the State Governments of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry, for identification of towns and submission of detailed project reports.

Meals for students of Government schools in Maharashtra

***300. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government has requested for grant of financial assistance of Rs. 90 crores for providing cooked meal to the students of the State Government Schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government of Maharashtra had, in October, 2002, requested for Central assistance of Rs. 90 crore per annum, to meet cooking cost at the rate of fifty paise per child per school day under the Mid-Day Meal Programme.

(c) In December, 2003, Planning Commission has asked State Governments to earmark minimum 15% of additional Central assistance under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, as from 2004-05, for meeting cooking cost under Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Agri-Export Zone at Vijayawada

1159. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agri Export Zone at Vijayawada had been approved by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when exports would commence from Vijayawada Agri Export Zone;

(c) if the answer to part (a) is negative, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Memorandum of Understanding between Union Government and Government of Andhra Pradesh had been signed;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (f) An Agri Export Zone (AEZ) for mangoes in Krishna District, which includes the commercial city of Vijayawada, was approved and notified on 13th September, 2002. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Central Government and the Government of Andhra Pradesh was signed on 27th September, 2002. An investment of around Rs. 17.90 crores is envisaged in this AEZ, of which Rs. 3.77 crores is expected from the Central Government agencies, Rs. 4.23 crores from State Government agencies and around Rs. 9.89 crores from the private sector. Export of mangoes from this AEZ has already started.