

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes. it is proposed to consider enabling provisions under the RTI Act to frame Rules regarding salaries, allowances and conditions of service for the functionaries as there are no such provisions available under the RTI Act presently.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Modernisation of Manavalakurichi unit of IREL

2561. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal for modernisation of Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) unit at Manavalakurichi in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said unit earned profits in recent years; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

Cooperation in developing atomic energy

2562. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the status of India in world, in developing atomic energy and its technology;
- (b) the countries being co-operated with in this regard;
- (c) whether there is any collaboration with Israel in this area; and
- (d) whether our atomic energy policy strengthen our relations with foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) India is recognized globally as a nation with advanced nuclear technologies. India has developed comprehensive capabilities in all aspects

of nuclear power viz. Siting, Design, Construction, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance and waste management of nuclear power plants.

(b) Presently, nuclear power plants are set up in cooperation with Russian Federation in the country. Two power plants viz. Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) 1 and 2 are already commercially operating. Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) for co-operation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy have been signed with 17 countries.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Funds allocated to North-Eastern Council

2563. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated for the North-Eastern Council (all the States) during 2018-19 has not been disbursed by the Central Government, so far;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) if not the details of schemes under the Ministry that have received funds and the States in the region which received them; and

(d) whether the Ministry is proposing a major change in their guidelines of the Council and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) An amount of ₹ 1156 crore has been allocated to North Eastern Council for the year 2018-19. The disbursement of funds by the North Eastern Council (NEC) is made project-wise on the basis of progress of the implementation of the projects and receipt of Utilization Certificates. ₹ 168.77 crore, of which ₹ 76.92 crore to NE States and Sikkim and ₹ 91.85 crore to other Agencies, have been released as on July, 2018.

(c) NEC has received funds under the following schemes;

(i) NEC Schemes – ₹ 906.00 crore and

(ii) North East Road Sector Development Scheme – ₹ 250.00 crore.

The State-wise release as on July, 2018 is given in Statement (*See below*).