

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) Yes..

(b) The broad features of the scheme, as tentatively finalised, are that for the Central Equipment Pool which will be set up in the Central Water and Power Commission, earth-moving and construction equipment will be procured for renting out to State Irrigation projects. After the need of one projects for the equipment so allotted is over, it will be transferred to another State/Project according to needs. The Pool, will however, not cover the requirements of equipment in respect of projects already tied to specific foreign credits. The accounts of the Central Equipment Pool will be maintained on commercial basis and the scheme will be operated on a no-profit-no-loss basis. The programme of work in any State will be examined at the time the equipment is rented out to the individual State, so that on completion of one project, the equipment is deployed on another project in the same State or an another project in another State as may be considered necessary. Proper facilities for up-keep, maintenance, repairs and overhaul of machines will be provided by the Central and Regional workshops in each State.

The total cost of operation of the scheme over a period of five years is estimated to be about Rs. 55.43 crores (gross) inclusive of Rs. 26.14 crores of foreign exchange component for equipment and initial spare parts.

The object of setting up the Pool is to achieve more efficient utilisation of earthmoving and construction equipment on irrigation projects.

Construction Works in U.P.

1231. Shri K. N. Pandey: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have provided Rs. 45 crores for construction works in the field of agricultural production,

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minor irrigation and education in Uttar Pradesh during the Fourth Plan period; and

(b) if so, the works which will be undertaken in the State?

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) and (b). Central Government does not provide assistance for construction works as such. The outlays for each of the programmes of agricultural production, minor irrigation and education, are determined by the State Governments on the advice of the Commission. The details of the programmes such as requisite construction works are sanctioned by the State Government. Central assistance is related to overall programmes.

Medical Personnel and Contraceptives for Sweden

1232. Shri K. N. Pandey: Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Sweden have approached Government to provide contraceptives and medical personnel for intensive family planning work in their country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. S. Chandrasekhar): (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under negotiation.

Welfare of Tribal People in West Bengal

1233. Shri Samar Guha: Will the Minister of Social Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large parts of tribal areas of Bankura and Purulia Districts of West Bengal are under the grip of near famine conditions; and

(b) whether Government have undertaken any scheme of social welfare to help the poor people of these areas?