

establishment of additional capacity for the production of key agricultural inputs, like fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides and agricultural machinery, arrangements for soil conservation and land improvement, the setting up of extensive extension organisation to propagate and improve agricultural practices and the provision of agricultural credit facilities through co-operatives and nationalised commercial banks.

(c) The intensified efforts at raising foodgrain production have met with a good measure of success in recent years. Food output reached a record level of 95.1 million tonnes in 1967-68. It is expected to be considerably higher during this year.

Boosting of Exports by Public undertakings

1025. SHRI R. K. BIRLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Conference of the public undertakings was called in January this year for discussing the export performance by these undertakings by engaging themselves in the national export drive ;

(b) if so, whether an export strategy is being drawn for these undertakings ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in some undertakings there is large unutilised capacity which can be harnessed to meet requirements of export market and if so, the names of such undertakings ; and

(d) the other steps being taken by the public undertakings to boost exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) (a) Yes, Sir. A meeting of Chief Executives of some Public Enterprises was held on 8th January, 1970 under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Foreign Trade to discuss matters relating to the adoption of a crash export programme by the Public Enterprises.

(b) to (d). Most of the Public Enterprises in the engineering sector are now facing the problem of underutilisation of capacity. Increased sales through exports has been recognised as an important way

of improving the capacity utilisation of these enterprises. Measures proposed to be taken to boost the exports of Public Enterprises include the drawing up of export marketing plans, preparation of common material, such as literature, etc. for overseas, suitable display with films/slides at Osaka—1970, streamlining the arrangements for foreign exchange allocation for export purposes, cash assistance in selected cases, utilisation of Consultants wherever necessary, etc.

Upgrading of Sisubhaban Paediatrics Training Centre, Cuttack

1026. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government approved the upgrading of Sisubhaban Paediatrics Training Centre at Cuttack in 1967 and agreed to bear the 90% of the expenses during the Third Plan and the entire expenditure during the Fourth Plan ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Institution has not been upgraded so far ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government would consider to make the Institution a National Tropical Paediatrics Training Centre like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi or Chandigarh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING ; AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Institution is under the administrative control of the State Government of Orissa. The Central Government, has no proposal at present to declare the Institution as National Tropical Paediatric Training Centre like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi or PGIMER Chandigarh.