

**EXIM Bank's offer of credit for
Annapara-II T.P.P.**

1922. SHRI B.V. DESAI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the EXIM Bank have offered a credit of Rs. 560 crores on soft terms for the Annapara-II Thermal Power Project;

(b) if so, whether according to the offer, the Japanese will provide credit worth Rs. 400 crores and the share of US EXIM Bank would be Rs. 160 crores;

(c) is it also a fact that a high level Japanese Delegation visited India in September, 1984 and had discussions with various agencies;

(d) if so, what are the packages offered by the two countries—Japan and US; and

(e) whether both the countries have agreed to meet the full foreign exchange obligations of the project?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (e). To meet the external financing cost of Anpara 'B' project (2 × 500 MW), Government of Japan have agreed to extend loan assistance totalling Yen 140 billion, comprising Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) loan of upto Yen 100 billion and Exim Bank of Japan loan of Yen 40 billion. The OECF loan is on soft terms. A Japanese Technical Mission visited India in August-September, 1984. The loan assistance is to be utilised in two turn-key packages. The first package will be financed from the OECF loan, and will include a 500 MW unit and common station facilities. The second package, to be financed from the Exim Bank of Japan loan, will include the second 500 MW unit.

**Central Scheme for Vocationalisation
of Higher Education**

1923. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to sponsor Central Scheme to supplement the programmes for vocationalisation of higher education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how the scheme is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) and (b). The UGC had initiated a Scheme in the Fifth plan to restructure the first degree courses in Arts, Science and Commerce subjects. One of the objectives of this restructuring is to remodel the conventional course with the introduction of an application oriented component to provide work practical experience to graduates. This programme is proposed to be continued in the Seventh Plan. In addition the National Open University proposed to be established is expected to design and implement a variety of courses for improving and upgrading skills and competences to meet the requirements of jobs.

(c) The UGC programme of restructuring courses is already being implemented by 78 colleges and 3 universities. For implementing this scheme the UGC has agreed to offer assistance to a college upto Rs. 1 lakh per annum for appointing core staff utilising services of core-staff and other non-recurring expenditure, for a period of 5 years.

The details of the programmes to be offered by the Open University are yet to be worked out.

High Pesticides Residues in food Stuff

1924. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the alarming results of survey of high pesticides residues in food stuffs in Calcutta and if so, remedial steps taken/proposed ;

(b) whether it is a fact that high incidence of pesticides in human tissues could lead to many diseases including cancer ; and

(c) if so, steps proposed to reduce, if not eliminate, entry of pesticides in food ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : (a) Yes, Sir, According to the study carried out in Central Food Laboratory, Calcutta, published in 1980, out 400 food samples tested, only 95 samples (23.7%) were positive for pesticides. Out of these 95 samples, 35 samples exceeded the prescribed tolerance limit (9% of total samples).

The State Governments has been advised from time to time to make control effective by drawing frequent samples of food for testing of pesticides. The Ministry of Agriculture has also been advised to ensure safe use of pesticides by the farmers and growers.

The Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies have also set up infrastructure to monitor the levels of pesticides residues in foodgrains during the storage.

(b) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, high incidence of pesticide residues in human tissues may lead to or may be related to adverse effects on liver, nervous systems and blood in case of organochlorine insecticides, and cardiovascular system and nervous systems in the case of organophosphorus insecticide. There is no positive evidence of occurrence of cancer in human beings due to pesticides accumulated in the body.

Some of the pesticides (DDT, BHC etc.) are carcinogenic in experimental animals.

(c) Ministry of Agriculture is giving utmost attention to the safety in the use of pesticides and also proper dosages and application methods of pesticides.

Maintenance and Widening of G.T. Road in West Bengal

1925 SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the important G.T. Road is now being considered as a rejected route on road transport throughout the country ; and

(b) if not, the reasons for not taking up any measures to widen it and to maintain it effectively at Howrah in particular and West Bengal in general ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Various improvement works aggregating nearly Rs. 6,57 crores on G.T. Road in West Bengal, have been sanctioned during the Sixth Plan period (1980-85) and are in various of progress. Another Rs. 50 lakhs have been provided for improvement of the G.T. Road, in West Bengal during 1985-86.

Replacement of Existing Weighing System in Railways

1926. SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of Pitless In-Motion Electronic Weigh Bridges along with advantage to be derived over the existing weighing system of the Railways ; and

(b) how long would it take for Railways to replace the existing system with new Pitless In-Motion Weigh Bridges (Electronic) at least in 100 or