

(d) Yes, Sir. It is proposed that increase in production and productivity will be a guiding factor in determination of wages when the wage structure for the steel industry is discussed in the bipartite forum of the National Joint Committee for the Steel Industry.

[*Translation*]

Agriculture Science Centres in Rajasthan

5613. PROF NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government propose to open Agriculture Science Centre in each district of the country for development of agriculture;

(b) if so, the number of such Centres proposed to be opened in Rajasthan during 1986-87 ;

(c) whether Government propose to open an Agriculture Science Centre in Chittorgarh also; and

(d) if so, the time by which such Centre is likely to be opened in Chittorgarh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras proposed to be opened in Rajasthan during 1986-87 will be decided by an ICAR Committee at the appropriate time keeping in view the financial resources earmarked for the purpose.

(d) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Soil Erosion in Eastern Zone

5614. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have prepared a scheme to check soil erosion in the eastern zone ;

(b) if so, the schemes prepared for each State falling in the eastern zone; and

(c) the details of the amount earmarked in Seventh Five Year Plan to implement the soil conservation programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). Government launched multi-dimensional programmes of soil conservation since the First Five Year Plan in the country including the eastern zone, comprising the States to Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Sikkim. These schemes got enlarged and diversified in the subsequent Plan periods under Central and State sectors. The following soil conservation schemes are under implementation in the eastern zone :

1. Soil conservation in the catchments of river valley projects.
2. Integrated watershed management in the catchments of flood prone rivers.

Central support is also being extended through All India Soil and Land Use Survey in identifying the problematic areas in the eastern zone. About 117.64 lakh hectares have been covered under different types of surveys by this organisation.

2. During the Seventh Plan, a sum of Rs. 110 crore has been earmarked for implementation of Central sector/Centrally sponsored soil conservation schemes. Another Centrally sponsored scheme "National watershed development programme for rainfed agriculture" (NWDPA) has been launched in 1986-87 with an outlay of Rs. 239 crore comprising of Rs. 120 crore as Central Government share and remaining Rs. 119 crore as State share. The scheme will be undertaken on the basis of integrated water-approach and covers States in the the eastern zone. Yearwise State allocation will be worked out on year-to-year basis for individual schemes keeping in view the demand of the concerned State Governments and overall resources position. Besides, the following schemes having direct bearing on soil and water conservation are also being implemented in the eastern zone :

1. Soil, water and tree conservation in the Himalayas.

2. Social forestry including rural fuel-wood plantation.
3. Hill areas development programme.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research has also sanctioned a new Centre of the Central soil and Water Research and Training Institute at Koraput in Orissa to develop suitable technology to control soil erosion in the areas.

3. An outlay of Rs. 54.65 crore has also been provided under State sector in the Seventh Plan for the States of the eastern zone to tackle the problem of soil erosion.

Measures to increase productivity of blast furnaces for the public sector steel plants

5615. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an action group has suggested to the ministry some measures to increase the productivity of blast furnaces for public steel plants ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry has forwarded the recommendations to the Steel Authority of India Ltd. for further action; and

(d) if so, when the recommendations are likely to be finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b). An Action Group, headed by Shri Lovraj Kumar, former Secretary (Steel) on 'Investment Planning of Integrated Steel Plants of SAIL and IISCO', in their First Report have recommended some measures for technological upgradation in blast furnaces. Their recommendations include :—

1. Better preparation of raw material.
2. Increased sinter burden.
3. Improvement in coke properties.
4. Improvement in charge distribution.

5. Improvement in instrumentation and control.

6. Better facilities in cast house.

7. Adoption of bellow type tuyers.

8. Cast house slag granulation.

9. Continued R & D efforts to keep the technology updated.

10. Improvement in efficiency through training etc.

11. General improvement in working environment and adherence to technological parameters.

Another Action Group, headed by Shri Mantosh Sondhi, former Secretary (Steel) on 'Improving Operations in the Short-term', has also submitted their First Report. This related to Coal and Coke and recommended measures for conserving coking coal by improving the blast furnaces operations. It suggested adoption of measures like increasing sinter content, reducing limestone from blast furnace burden to the minimum, proper sizing of feed materials, increasing hot blast and improving quality of raw materials.

(c) and (d). Both the reports were sent to the Steel Authority of India Limited. These recommendations are being duly considered in SAIL in preparation of their modernisation/development plans for the Plants.

Scheme for modernisation of steel mills/plants

5616. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a scheme for modernisation of steel mills/plants has been drawn up;

(b) the funds required for the purpose;

(c) how much of it will be earmarked for import of machinery and know-how; and

(d) the extent to which the indigenous industries will be associated to make the supplies so as to reduce the necessity of import ?