

million by way of advance for the projects being funded under the U.S. Aid bilateral assistance programme.

[Translation]

Allocation of Fund under Drought Relief Programme to U.P.

6308. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has sanctioned additional amount to various States for several irrigation schemes under the Drought Relief Programme ; and

(b) if so, the additional amount sanctioned to Uttar Pradesh for irrigation schemes under the said programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b). The Planning Commission has sanctioned additional outlays to 14 States under drought relief assistance, to expedite certain irrigation projects in drought-prone areas. An amount of Rs. 28 crores has been sanctioned to Uttar Pradesh, 50% of which is in the form of drought relief assistance and the balance as additionality.

[English]

Increase in Non-Development Expenditure

6309. DR SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item in Business Standard dated 12 January 1988 regarding increase in non-development expenditure ; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such increase ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The news-item in the "Business Standard" dated 12-1-88, refers to the increase in Non-developmental expenditure of Central and State Governments between 1985-86 and 1986-87.

(b) So far as the Centre is concerned

the main items contributing to the increase in expenditure are interest payments, defence and subsidies. The details have been explained in the Budget documents of respective years.

Promotion of Indian Exports to France

6310. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether major French companies have pledged to promote Indian exports to France and the French-speaking African nations ;

(b) if so, whether any formula for agreement has been reached with these companies ;

(c) if so, the details of the same ;

(d) the steps being taken to implement the same ; and

(e) to what extent India's export will get a boost as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Some of the French companies have shown interest in promoting Indian exports to France and other Franco-phone markets.

(b) to (e). No specific formula has been evolved in this respect. A delegation of French buying companies visited India in February 1988, some of whom are reported to have placed trial orders on some Indian companies. The French buying mission carried a few samples of Indian products for further assessment and evaluation. Such an interaction among the business enterprises of the two countries is expected to help augment bilateral trade exchanges, although it is difficult at this stage to assess their precise impact on trade flows.

[Translation]

Amount for Construction of Indira Gandhi Canal

6311. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount so far provided by Union Government for construction of the