

Implementation of IRDP in West Bengal

3748. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the results of the sample studies made by Reserve Bank of India and/or NABARD on the implementation of Integrated Rural Development Programmes (IRDP) in West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : NABARD has conducted an evaluation study of implementation of IRDP which covered 15 States including West Bengal. In West Bengal the study covered the two districts of Howrah and Burdwan, 4 Blocks of Jagatballarpur, Amta, Memri and Raina and 58 sample beneficiaries. Out of 58 sample beneficiaries 45 were found to have crossed the poverty line. Average annual income of sample beneficiaries before participation in the programme was Rs. 1988 which rose to Rs. 3706 in the post development stage whereby the beneficiaries earned an incremental income of Rs. 1718.

The RBI's study also covered two blocks (Polba Dadpur and Balagarh) in Hooghly District of West Bengal from where few sample beneficiaries were selected. The study report of RBI indicates analysis for the whole sample covering many states. As per this study 51% of the sample beneficiaries registered an increase in their real income and 17% were able to cross the poverty line.

Custom duty structure on imported drug intermediates

3749. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the customs duty structure on imported drug intermediates is higher than the duty structure on imported drugs manufactured from the same intermediates;

(b) if so, the details thereof and justification therefor ; and

(c) the policy of Government in this regard

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Drugs fall within Chapter 29 or 30 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and drug intermediates generally fall within Chapter 29 of the First Schedule. While the general statutory basic duty on items covered by these Chapters is 100%, drugs generally carry an effective basic duty of 60% advalorem, and drug intermediates, 70% advalorem. Auxiliary duty at the rate of 40% advalorem and additional (countervailing) duty equal to Central Excise duty are leviable in addition. However, duty on various specified drugs and drug intermediates has been reduced in consultation with the administrative Ministry concerned and notifications issued in this respect from time to time have been laid on the Table of the House with Explanatory Memoranda setting out the reasons for such exemption. It is not possible to give details of drug intermediates, where the duty is higher than the drugs, since their number is very large.

Each request for duty exemption on drug intermediates is examined on merits in consultation with the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, having regard to their alternative uses, indigenous availability, etc.

Realisation of excise duty from cigarette manufacturing companies

3750. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that excise duty realised from various cigarette manufacturing companies has of late been registering a downward trend ;

(b) if so, the details of excise duty realised from them during 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 year-wise and cigarette company-wise ;

(c) whether Government have analysed the causes of the downward trend ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government to plug this evasion of excise duty