

erative sectors as well as those run departmentally, employing 500 or more workers. Another scheme of Workers' Participation was introduced by the Government in 1977 in commercial and service organisations in the Public sector, which have large scale public dealings, with a view to rendering better customer services. The working of the schemes was reviewed and a scheme of Employees' Participation in Management was notified by the Government of India on 30th December, 1983. The scheme is applicable to all public sector undertaking except those which are specifically exempted. The scheme provides for employees' participation at the shop floor and plant levels. As regards participation at the Board level, the administrative Ministry/Department concerned can take a decision in consultation with the Ministry of Labour. The participating arrangement covers operational areas, personnel matters, production and environmental areas. The Workers' Participation in Management Bill, 1990 which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha is pending consideration of the Parliament.

Construction Contracts for Indian Companies.

3231. SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have established the powerful commercial wings in all embassies abroad;

(b) if so, whether they are exploring the possibilities of getting huge construction contracts in gulf countries and in Latin American countries;

(c) whether any applications are pending with various Indian Embassies abroad from Indian construction companies for getting construction contracts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, company-wise and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Indian Embassies and High Commissions in select countries already have separate economic and commercial wings.

I however, following the recent changes in economic policies, the Government have instructed all our Missions to give priority to economic and commercial work.

(b) Yes, Sir. Our Missions abroad, including those in the Gulf countries and Latin America are actively assisting Indian companies in getting construction contracts and also exporting goods and services to the countries of their accreditation.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Cases of Drug Companies Referred to Bureau of Industrial costs and prices.

3232. SHRI S.B. THORAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have referred a number of cases of drug companies to Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) to study the cost of production during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the comments of BICP thereon; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to avoid closure of units and scarcity of essential drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTIL-

IZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b). BICP is an expert body which undertakes cost-cum-technical study of various bulk drugs and recommends prices for a period of three years. Interaction between this Ministry and BICP for this purpose is a continuous process.

(c) Prices revisions keeping in view the escalation in costs of inputs and utilities have been given from time to time. The ongoing review of Drug Policy is intended to make the pricing mechanism more pragmatic and the aim of ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices, of essential medicines of good quality has been kept uppermost in the mind.

Linking of Rural Development Programmes with Environment and Forestry

3233. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new proposals and policies of government linking programmes of environmental concern altogether;

(b) whether the Government propose to develop and protect the environment through various rural development programmes; and

(c) the steps being taken to extend and implement such policies nationwide, linking rural development programmes with forestry and environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) to (c). Major Rural Development programmes viz. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) are aimed at eradication of poverty which is itself a great polluter. Schemes like

Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) aim at ecological restoration. Besides, special Area Development Programme like Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) is also aimed at ensuring socio-economic development of the Hill Areas and Communities. The various schemes undertaken under these programmes are also meant for protecting environment and preservation of land, water and other natural resources.

The JRY, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented all over the country. Under the Yojana, Social Forestry and afforestation constitute important activities which besides providing gainful employment to unemployed and under-employed persons, create durable productive assets and also contribute to the environmental improvement. Keeping in view the importance of environment, 25% of the JRY Fund at district level is earmarked for social forestry. During the last three years 12971 lakhs trees were planted throughout the country under social forestry.

DPAP is under implementation in 615 blocks in 91 districts in 13 States and DDP in 131 blocks in 21 districts in 5 States, which are arid and semi-arid areas of the country. The core components of these programmes are land shaping, soil conservation, water resource development, afforestation, control of desertification, sand dune stabilisation and pasture development.

[Translation]

Diversion of Funds for Irrigation Projects in Punjab

3234. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (FEROZPUR): Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab