

(b) and (c). NTC has been facing an acute working capital shortage. NTC is expected to clear the outstanding dues depending upon the availability of working capital.

Interim Relief to Journalists

3776. SHRI RABI RAY :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation of National Federation of Newspaper Employees and Indian Federation of Journalists met him on the first week of April, 1995;

(b) if so, the details of the demands raised by them;

(c) whether the Government propose to refer the issue of granting Interim Relief to the journalists and newspaper employees to the wage boards soon;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken on the other demands raised by these employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) to (e). Yes Sir. National Federation of Newspaper Employees and National Union of Journalist (India) have, *inter-alia*, raised the issue of Interim Relief to the newspaper employees. The issue of interim relief along with the representations have been referred to the Wage Boards for Working Journalists and Non-Journalists Newspaper Employees and News-Agency Employees.

Beedi Workers

3777. DR. R. MALLU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up training institute for new employment skills for beedi workers of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether funds are available from the National Renewal Fund for such purpose;

(c) whether preliminary discussions have been held with the State Government in this regard; and

(d) the extent of unemployment that would be caused by anti-beedi legislation under way?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

(d) The legislation proposed by the Ministry of Health does not envisage a ban on the use or sale of tobacco except in the vicinity of educational institutions and hospitals. Therefore, it is felt that the employment situation in the beedi industry may not be significantly affected for the present.

Public Provident Fund Claims

3778. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) State-wise details of the cases of final payments of the Public Provident Fund claims pending with the Government, with period of pendency;

(b) the reasons for the pendency; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government for immediate payment and the action being taken against the officials responsible for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) The cases of final payments of the Public Provident Fund claims are settled by the bank/post office directly where the account stands, as per provisions of Public Provident Fund Scheme, 1968. Hence no claims are pending with the Government.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Foreign Aided Projects in Meghalaya

3779. SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the foreign aided projects being implemented in Meghalaya and the location thereof;

(b) the quantum of amount released so far and the time by which these are likely to be completed; and

(c) the amount being provided by the Government of Meghalaya for those projects, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) There are no ongoing foreign aided State or Multilate projects in Meghalaya.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

External Financial Assistance to States

3780. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the norms followed by the Union Government to pass on the financial assistance provided by the international agencies to States;

(b) whether the Union Government have taken a decision to pass on such assistance to States on the same conditions on which the international financial institutions have provided; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) External assistance received on account of projects being implemented by State Governments is passed on entirely to the concerned States in the form of Additional Central Assistance (ACA). The terms of ACA are the same as compared to normal central assistance for State Plans.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Plan to Develop Bhubaneswar Airport

3781. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to develop Bhubaneswar Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any land has been acquired for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Airports Authority of India is undertaking following works relating to construction of new Terminal Building, Installation of Instrument Landing System and Distance Measuring Equipment. Besides, there is a proposal to extend the present runway length to 9000 feet.

(c) and (d). The State Government has acquired approximately 70 acres of land and handed it over to Airports Authority of India.

Sick Tea Gardens of Assam

3782. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are several sick and weak tea gardens in Assam, particularly in Southern Assam of which some have already been abandoned;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the tea-labourers of such sick and weak gardens are at present in miserable plight; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to revitalise such tea gardens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). As per the survey conducted by the Tea Board in 1989, following is the finding with regard to sick and weak tea gardens in Assam :

Tea Area	No. of weak Tea Gardens	No. of closed Tea Gardens
Jorhat	9	2
Tezpur	5	1
Barrack Valley	29	1
Guwahati	4	1
Total	47	5

(c) and (d). The problems faced by sick and weak tea gardens have been quite complex ranging from managerial/financial mismanagement to protracted litigation. Tea Board has already undertaken an exercise to identify such weak and sick tea gardens to find out reasons for their sickness. Discussions have been held by the Tea Board with representatives of commercial banks and the concerned tea gardens to find out ways and means for revival of these gardens by evolving a comprehensive rehabilitation package. Tea Research Association has also been requested to admit the weak gardens under its membership at subsidised subscription rate and to provide technical knowhow for their betterment.

Women's Sewa Bank

3783. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether women's 'Sewa Bank' has been playing a catalytic role in organising cooperatives for poor women workers in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of the performance of this Bank in the State during the last one year;

(c) whether the Government propose to open such more banks in other States particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the time-frame fixed in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e). Information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Modernisation of Airports

3784. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether any foreign country has sent proposals for collaboration with India in modernising and constructing of airport projects in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?