

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA)
(a) to (d). There are no schemes approved by the Union Government specially for the State of Andhra Pradesh. However, some of the major schemes undertaken for the welfare of the rural workers including the agricultural workers in the country as a whole including the State of Andhra Pradesh are as follows:

(i) Intergrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP):

Under this Scheme, financial assistance is provided for acquiring income generating assets, comprising of a varying mix of subsidies and term credit at differential rates for small farmers, marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans with special provision for SC/STs and women. The number of families in Andhra Pradesh assisted under this scheme during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 are 1,79,038, 2,59,697 and 95,395 (upto January, 95) respectively.

(ii) National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Rural Landless Employment Gurantee Programme (RLEGP) and Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY) :

These schemes aim at generation of additional gainful employment and creation of productive community assets. The two schemes (viz. NREP and RLEGP) were merged and renamed as Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY) in 1989 with significant increase in outlays. Employment generation under this scheme in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the year 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 are 677.93, 903.6 and 451.33 (upto Dec., 94) lakh mandays respectively. This scheme has been intensified in 120 backward districts of the country where there is concentration of unemployment and under employment.

(iii) Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) :

The scheme aims at skill upgradation of rural youth for self-employment.

(iv) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) :

On 2nd October, 1993, a new scheme known as 'Employment Assurance Scheme' has been launched in 1752 identified backward blocks throughout the country and seeks to provide assured wage employment of 100 days of unskilled manual work in lean agricultural season. The scheme will mainly benefit agricultural workers. No targets are fixed under this Scheme.

Besides, there is a scheme known as Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) which was launched in 1982-83 for bringing about economic and social upliftment of rural women belonging to families below the poverty line using a group approach for taking up income generating activities suited to their skills and aptitude. The Scheme operates in conjunction with TRYSEM and IRDP.

In addition to the above, the Central and the various

State Governments have taken up several Insurance and Social Security Schemes like Group Insurance Scheme for Landless Agricultural Labourers in 1987 under the Social Security Fund of the LIC for providing insurance cover to all landless agricultural labourers in the age group of 18-60 years and the Insurance Scheme for IRDP beneficiaries in 1988. Besides, State Governments are running old age pension Schemes with varying eligibility criteria and pension rates.

Westland Helicopters

2654. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Westland helicopters at present borne on the strength of Pawan Hans Ltd. and the number out of them which were grounded in February, 1991 after they were found to be technically unsound and commercially unviable to operate by Pawan Hans Ltd.;

(b) whether the Government propose to remove the loss-making Westland helicopters from the fleet of Pawan Hans Ltd.;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total money invested in these helicopters;

(e) whether Government are planning for the disinvestment of their equity in company; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) A total of 19 Westland helicopters are on the strength of Pawan Hans Limited (PHL). All the helicopters were grounded in February, 1991.

(b) and (c). It had earlier been decided to dispose of the entire fleet of Westland helicopters through global tenders but since no bids were received by the prescribed date, it has subsequently been decided to dispose of these helicopters and accessories through negotiations with parties interested in their purchase.

(d) The helicopters were purchased at a cost of 65 million pounds. The entire amount was covered by an Overseas Development Agency grant from the Government of United Kingdom. Besides, PHL separately paid 5 million pounds for purchase of 6 spare engines and accessories.

(e) and (f). There is no such proposal at present.

[Translation]

Expansion of Jabalpur Air-strip

2655. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM