

(d) whether Union Government propose to seek the assistance of agricultural scientists to make a sustained effort for the development of agriculture which is crucial for reducing poverty in Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) According to the provisional population totals of the Census of India 1981, 81.80 per cent of 'main' workers in rural areas of Orissa were cultivators/agricultural labourers. 60.9 per cent of the State income (at 1970-71 prices) during 1981-82 was accounted for by 'agriculture, allied and mining' sector.

(b) The Government are aware that Orissa has utilisable potential to irrigate about 75 per cent of its cultivable land. The rainfall regime in the State is also favourable for cultivating a large number of crops. However, yield of rice in the State has remained more or less stagnant and is comparatively low.

(c) The Seventh Five Year Plan aims at rapid expansion of the irrigation potential in the State for achieving a breakthrough in the production of rice. Priority has been given to the completion of unfinished projects capable of yielding benefits during the Plan period, particularly in the poorer regions with low and uncertain rainfalls. The Government of India has extended assistance to the State Government in the exploitation of groundwater resources through the centrally sponsored scheme of Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers for Increasing Agricultural Production.

(d) The Government of India assists the State Government in strengthening its research, development and extension effort for sustained development of agriculture in the State with a view to reducing the poverty levels.

Microwave Stations in Bihar

1329. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the number of

microwave stations in Bihar and the help rendered by them in telecasting T.V. programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : At present, no dedicated microwave link is used by Doordarshan in Bihar for telecast of TV programmes. All the transmitters in the State relay programmes put out from Delhi via satellite.

Posting of Labour Attaches in Indian Embassies in Gulf Countries

1330. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to post Labour Attaches in Indian Embassies in Gulf countries to deal with the problems of the Indian migrant workers ;

(b) if so, whether any final decision has been taken in this regard ; and

(c) to what extent the problem of Indian workers in the Gulf countries will be solved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Misutilisation of funds in States under NREP & RLEGP

1331. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the funds allotted to States under NREP and RLEGP are not being utilised properly ;

(b) if so, the names of such States ;

(c) whether all the States are furnishing accounts of utilisation of funds ; and

(d) if not, the names of the States which have not furnished the accounts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) : (a) and (b) Some deviations from the guidelines have been observed in the implementation of the NREP/RLEGP in different States. However, the overall utilisation of the funds allocated under the programme has generally been satisfactory.

(c) and (d) Accounts of utilisation of funds are furnished by all the States. However, in some cases delays have taken place in furnishing these accounts.

Scheme to Reduce cost of Production of Non-Ferrous Metals

1332. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to reduce the output cost of non-ferrous metals in the country to bring it at par with the international price ;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and when it is expected to be implemented ;

(c) the extent to which it will help in increasing the production in the country and in competing with the world market ; and

(d) the extent to which it will reduce import of such materials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b) Government are looking into the possibilities of reduction in the output cost of non-ferrous metals for which consultations are being held with the public sector enterprises producing the metals.

(c) and (d) Do not arise as yet.

Acquisition of Multi-Sensor Aircraft by Geological Survey of India

1333. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Geological Survey of India is acquiring a multi-sensor aircraft from Canada for airborne geophysical surveys in the country despite the fact that an electromagnetic survey system has been developed indigenously and tested by the National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the expenditure involved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India has acquired an aircraft from Canada with provision for multi-sensor geophysical system for carrying out aerial geophysical surveys. The indigenous electromagnetic system developed and tested by National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) could not be utilised as NGRI were not given clearance by the appropriate authority to fly the system aboard the particular aircraft available with them. Therefore, the question of non-utilisation of indigenous technology does not arise. Furthermore, the recently acquired aircraft will have frequency domain airborne system and the time domain input system (airborne) of NGRI can be used advantageously as a complementary source of data. However, GSI has approved a project of flights by NGRI using the EM system, on NGRI obtaining requisite clearance, for proving their system.

The total cost of the project with Scintrex, Canada, which includes aircraft on board instrumentation systems, ground based geophysical mapping, relevant training in operations and maintenance amounts to 7,264,000 Canadian Dollars.

Eradication of Superstitious Beliefs

1334. SHRI. SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the names of T.V. serials telecast by Doordarshan on eradication of superstitious beliefs during the last one year ;