

for low cost community water supply system has been worked out at the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its practical field application ; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to introduce this technological breakthrough in that Institute or any other institute in desert areas of Rajasthan ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Harnessing of surface runoff in the form of 'Tanka' (an under ground water reservoir) has been successfully developed by the Central Arid Zone Research Institute. The studies conducted at this Institute have revealed that even on sandy terrain, under low rainfall conditions, it is possible to harvest over 2 lakh litres of water from a 2 hectare catchment of compact size having 2-3% slope. Compacting the soil and spray of Janta emulsion followed by sodium carbonate spray has increased the runoff by 75%. The water harvested is sufficient to meet the domestic and livestock requirement of a family of 5 to 7 persons having about 14 livestock. Cost of this reservoir is estimated as Rs. 40,000/- and has a long life with proper maintenance. Experience has revealed that the 'Tanka's' constructed in the Range Management and Soil Conservation areas, in the heart of the desert, have successfully been operating for over 20 years efficiently.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Sponge Iron Units**

**1341. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of units registered for the manufacture of sponge iron from 1 January 1985 to 1 May, 1986 ;

(b) whether coal linkage to the sponge iron manufacturing units has been found to be inadequate and discouraging ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to assure coal linkage and adequate supply of coal to sponge iron units ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) :** (a) The number of units registered for the production of sponge iron from 1st January, 1985 to 1st May, 1986 is 72.

(b) Some complaints have been received from a few sponge iron units already in production or in various stages of implementation about inadequate supply and poor quality of coal, linkage from particular collieries, and also problems in regard to transportation of coal.

(c) A Linkage Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Steel, with a representative each from the Department of Coal, Planning Commission and Ministry of Railways as Members, for considering and finalising the linkage of coal as well as iron-ore supply to the sponge iron plants being set up in the country.

#### **Amendment to Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972**

**1342. SHRI RAHIM KHAN :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is some proposal under consideration of the Union Government to bring the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 at par with the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) :** (a) and (b) The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 provides for a scheme for payment of gratuity, while the EPF Act, 1952 provides for schemes relating to Provident Fund, Family Pension and Deposit Linked Insurance. Since the objectives and the purposes of the two Acts are quite different, the question of bringing the provisions of the two Acts at par does not arise.