

for Kushel Irrigation project in Keonjher District of Orissa.

Sixth Antarctica Expedition

5887. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sixth Antarctica Scientific Expedition has returned ; and

(b) if so, the important achievements of the expedition ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Sixth Antarctica Scientific Expedition has achieved all the major objectives assigned to it. These objectives may broadly be classified as Scientific and Logistics in content. In these two spheres, the achievements of the Expedition are as follows :

A. SCIENTIFIC

(1) *Geological and Geophysical Sciences*

An area of approximately 1600 sq km has been geologically surveyed in the Petermann Range of the Wohlthat Mountains. A permanent geophysical laboratory has been established at Dakshin Gangotri for monitoring of magnetic field fluctuations all through the year.

(2) *Atmospheric Sciences*

A significant feature of the investigations in this field has been the installation of Dobson Spectrophotometer at Dakshin Gangotri for undertaking the ozone measurements. The meteorologists have provided timely whether forecasts and warnings for the conduct of the expedition.

(3) *Environmental and Biomedical Sciences*

In the field of oceanography investigations were conducted with the establish-

ment of over 86 scientific stations in which physical and chemical properties of the Southern Ocean were investigated. 268 biological samples were collected from the dry valley of the Schirmacher Hill Range.

Physiological studies of the wintering team members have also been undertaken throughout the year and the effects of isolation and harsh environmental conditions on the members are being continuously monitored.

B. LOGISTICS

Members belonging to the Army, Navy and Air Force rendered excellent logistic support for the accomplishment of all the scientific objectives. The repair and maintenance of the buildings at Dakshin Gangotri and at Schirmacher Hill Range have been fully accomplished and all equipment, instruments and systems have been serviced so that these continue to provide trouble-free service throughout the year. The expedition has once again maintained its excellent safety record.

Rise in Non-Development Expenditure of Government

5888. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the non-development expenditure of the Government is increasing at a high level ;

(b) if so, the growth rate of non-development expenditure during 1960-70, 1970-80 and 1980-85 ; and

(c) what economy in expenditure was achieved as a result of various economy measures taken since 1970 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Non-development expenditure of Central Government including defence and interest charges amounted to Rs. 859 crores in 1960-61, 3075 crores in 1970-71,

10028 crores in 1980-81 and 24840 crores in 1985-86 (RE). As a percentage of total expenditure non-development expenditure constituted 49% in 1960-61 and 45% in 1985-86.

(c) Economy exercises are in continuous process in Government. It is not possible to quantify all the savings effected by these measures as the Government accounts reflect only the expenditures incurred. But for the economy measures the actual expenditure during these years would have been much higher.

Proposal to Declare Ugadi Festival as Central Government Holiday

5889. SHRI KATURI NARAYAN-SWAMY :
SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU :
SHRI C. SAMBU :
SHRI SRI HARI RAO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are reconsidering a proposal to declare the "Ugadi" festival, Telugu New Year Day as a Central Government holiday ;

(b) if so, when the decision is likely to be taken and announced ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In terms of the existing holiday-policy and in view of the limited number of holidays that can be granted, there is no scope for declaring a closed holiday in Central Government offices on the occasion of Ugadi.

Industrial Pollution

5890. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised a new plan to check industrial pollution ; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b). The on-going programme of industrial pollution control has been intensified. It includes air and water quality monitoring, laying down of standards and legal action against the polluting units.

Banking Facilities at Airports

5891. SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the banking system at airports is inadequate ; and

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to open more bank branches at different airports all over the country so as to reduce delays for passengers in getting banking facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Banking facilities at all the major Airports in the country are being provided at present through Extension Counters/Exchange Bureaux of Public sector Banks. The adequacy of such facilities is monitored on continual basis by the Reserve Bank of India and such steps including opening of additional counters/Bureaux are taken wherever considered necessary. Recently Reserve Bank of India have permitted Punjab National Bank and State Bank of India to open one Extension Counter each at the Delhi Airport and Central Bank of India to open an Exchange Bureau at the Bombay Airport.

Fees for Competitive Examinations of UPSC

5892. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :