

Council, Joint Trade Committee, etc.

(b) As per the provisional data received from DGCI&S, Calcutta, trade between India and Australia during 1986-87 was Rs. 578.31 crores. During 1987-88 (April-December), the volume of bilateral trade was Rs. 468.34 crores as compared to Rs. 422.37 crores during the corresponding period of last year.

Irregularities in Tobacco Auctions

10024. SHRI V SOBHANADRFESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that during the tobacco auctions this year, at some auction platforms, some employees of the Tobacco Board have deliberately under weighed the bales causing considerable loss to growers;

(b) if so, the factual position thereof; and

(c) The action being taken to fix the responsibility and obviate such complaints in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Allegations of under-weighment of tobacco bales at some auction platforms have been received by the Tobacco Board.

(b) The matter has been investigated by the Tobacco Board. Differences in weights of bales were found to be due to mechanical defects of the weighing scales. After the defects were noticed all the bales so'd were reweighed and weights rectified on the same day.

(c) The allegation of deliberate under-weighment of bales has not been established. The Tobacco Board has taken steps to check the weighing scales everyday at each of the auction platforms before commencing weighment and intermitant checks to obviate such complaints in future.

Additional assistance sought for Irrigation products by Andhra Pradesh

10025. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested Union Government to provide additional financial assistance for early completion of major, medium and minor irrigation projects in the state ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the action taken in this regard and the time by which necessary funds will be made available to the state ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c) In connection with the Special Foodgrains Production Programme for attainment of foodgrains production target envisaged in the Seventh Plan, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had initially indicated a requirement of about Rs. 98 crores for accelerating work on certain projects. It has been clarified to the State representatives that such a large additional outlay would not be available under this programme.

Irrigation projects under CAD programme of Orissa

10026. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the irrigation projects in Orissa which are included under the Command Area Development Programme (CAD) ;

(b) the amount of Central assistance provided during the Seventh Five Year Plan period for the execution of these projects; and

(c) the progress made in the completion of these projects so far ?