

Medium of Instruction in Universities

2350. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the medium of instruction in the Central Universities for under-graduate, post-graduate and professional education separately, university-wise ;

(b) whether the universities whose medium of instruction is English have adopted a target date for shifting to an Indian language at various levels ; and

(c) if so, the particulars thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected from the concerned Universities and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bihar's Request for Increase in Royalty Rates on Minerals

2351. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bihar has represented that the royalty it gets on the minerals obtained from the State, is inadequate ;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for revising the royalty ; and

(c) if not, how would Bihar be compensated for such loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) The royalty rates on minerals other than coal and sand for stowing have already been revised w.e.f. 5-5-87. So far no proposal from Government of Bihar for further revision of royalty on those minerals has been received.

In so far as coal is concerned, the royalty notified on 12-2-1981 is in force. The Government of Bihar had proposed that the royalty on coal should be levied on ad-valorem basis and at the minimum rates of 10% of F.O.R. sale price of coal.

(b) To consider the question of revision

of royalty rates on coal, a Study Group was constituted by the Department of Coal in November, 1984. The Study Group considered the various suggestions received and submitted its report in May, 1985. No decision has yet been taken on the report of the Study Group.

(c) Does not arise.

Loans under IRDP in West Bengal

2352. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are aware that applications for loans under Integral Rural Development Programme are not being given to applicants in West Bengal without the recommendation of Gram Panchayat pradhans ;

(b) whether the practice is within the norms framed by Union Government ; and

(c) if not, the steps Government propose to take to mitigate the hardship ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). In West Bengal, there is no bar to any intending applicant obtaining loan application forms directly from the bank. However, loan applications are filled up in camps attended by beneficiaries, block functionaries and bankers along with Panchayati Raj representatives. According to existing procedure prescribed by the State Government, the list of eligible beneficiaries are finalised, after household survey and its public display. Anyone aggrieved is given a chance to represent against selection or non-selection. Thereafter, the concerned Gram Panchayat is to sponsor cases which are sanctioned by the concerned Panchayat Samitis through its Sub Committee, in which bankers are also represented, after clearance in a joint inspection by blocks, bank and Panchayat representatives.

Need to Increase Management Efficiency and Productivity of Farmers

2353. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) in view of the fact that there is an urgent need to increase the management efficiency and productivity of farmers, particularly the small farmers, whether any corrective steps have been taken by Government in this regard ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). The steps taken by the Government to increase the management efficiency and productivity of farmers are as follows :

- (1) An agricultural extension system, popularly known as Training and Visit System of extension, has been introduced in the country to increase agricultural production and productivity. The system provides for regular visit of Village Extension Workers to the farmers and feedback of farmers problems to scientists for their solution.
- (2) The transfer of agricultural technology to farmers is also being made through the programme of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research namely, National Demonstrations, Operational Research Projects, Krishi Vigyan Kendras Lab-to-Land Programmes.
- (3) Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the small and marginal farmers are assisted through financial subsidies for investing in minor irrigation, land development and other agricultural activities ; and
- (4) The small and marginal farmers are also being assisted through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 5.00 lakh per Integrated Rural Development Block. The subsidy covers the areas of minor irrigation, distribution of minikits of improved seeds and land development.

Taking over of VISL

2354. SHRI S.M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any negotiations are going on for taking over Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited ; and

(b) if so, the progress achieved so far and the time likely to be taken in arriving at a final decision in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) and (b), Yes, Sir. Various aspects relating to the take over of VISL by the Central Government have been discussed with the Government of Karnataka. These discussions have covered the financial concessions required to be given to VISL by the State Government and the financing institutions in order to make VISL economically viable. No final decision has so far been taken on these concessions. It is not possible to indicate firmly the date by which the matter would be decided finally.

Per Hectare Production of Wheat and Rice

2355. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether per hectare production of wheat and rice is still very low as compared to other countries ;

(b) if so, the details of per hectare production of wheat and rice in the country as well as the World average ; and

(c) the steps being taken to raise per hectare production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). The following Table gives the per hectare production of wheat and rice for India as well as World average for the years 1984 to 1986 :