

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Promotion of Village and Small Industries is generally treated as synonymous with rural industrialisation. While the primary responsibility for their promotion rests with the State Governments,

the Centre also plays an important supplemental role, including assistance for provision of infrastructural facilities, technical guidance and financial assistance. The total outlays provided for the Village and Small Industries sector both by the Centre and States over the successive Plans are given below :

Plan period		Rs./crores
First Plan (1951/56)	...	31.20
Second Plan (1956/61)	...	200.00
Third Plan (1961/66)	...	264.00
Annual Plans (1966/69)	...	132.55
Fourth Plan (1969/74)	...	293.13
Fifth Plan (1974/79)	...	535.03
Annual Plan (1979/80)	...	239.48
Sixth Plan (1980/85)	...	1780.45

The progress made by this sector is already contained in the Sixth Plan Document.

(c) and (d). The Approach document for the 7th Plan (1985/90) has indicated that there would be adequate emphasis on promotion of rural industrialisation.

Fixation of External Value of Rupee

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of India's foreign exchange reserves;

(b) whether the rapid decline of the Pound Sterling in relation to the U.S. Dollar has serious implications for India and could lead to a revision of the basis on which the external value of the rupee is worked out ;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government have taken in this regard; and

(d) if no action has taken so far, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) India's Foreign Exchange Reserves as on 28th December, 1984 stood at Rs. 6385.60 Crores.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Coal Supply to West Bengal

8. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the existing coal supply to West Bengal to meet the demand for power plants and tea gardens in North Bengal;

(b) whether this coal supply does not meet the demand of North Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether North Bengal is facing crisis of coal, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). At present there is no thermal power station operating in North Bengal requiring coal. However, the coal companies are making adequate offer of coal for supply to the thermal power stations in the State of West Bengal. The Power stations could not make full use of this offer due to poor release of wagons by them. The power stations have also failed to move linked coal by road adequately due to their own transport problems. In regard to tea gardens in North Bengal, coal supplies during the period January '84 to December '84 were 1,90,600 tonnes as against their sponsored quota of 1,86,300 tonnes per annum recommended by the Tea Board.

(d) No crisis of coal has been reported by tea gardens in North Bengal. Movement is being effected to these tea gardens regularly for building up their stocks even though most of them are normally not in production during the off-season.

Payment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government Employees

9. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that instalments of additional Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees are not given when they become due and are delayed for months ; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the number of instalments of additional Dearness Allowance which are due to Central Government employees till date and the steps Government propose to clear them quickly ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). As on 18th January, 1985, two instalments of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees have become due for consideration with effect from 1-8-1984 and 1-11-1984 respectively. Payment of each instalment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees and relief to pensioners costs the exchequer approximately Rs. 70 crores and Rs. 8 crores per annum respectively. Therefore, the question of payment of each instalment of Dearness Allowance has to be considered carefully with regard to their impact on the economic situation and the budget. The question of sanction for payment of these instalments is receiving the attention of the Government.

[*Translation*]

Drinking Water in Danapur Cantonment Board Area

10. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the civilian population in Danapur Cantonment Board area in Bihar has to face drinking water crisis every year ;

(b) if so, whether a new water tank in the said Cantonment Board area had already been constructed ;

(c) if so, the reasons for not making supply of water therefrom ; and

(d) the time by which Government propose to make supply of water from the said water tank ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) :

(a) No, Sir. The water supply is however, disrupted sometimes due to mechanical breakdown or power failure.

(b) to (d). To augment the water supply further a new water tank with a capacity of 4.5 lakh litres has been construct-