

Services (India) Ltd. for utilising water of Damodar, Phalgu, Sankti and Mahane rivers in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the study is likely to be undertaken and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) WAPCOS (India) Ltd. takes up studies on award of contracts of payment basis. No such award has been made to WAPCOS by Bihar for taking up the studies on utilisation of water of rivers Damodar, Phalgu, Sankti and Mahane.

[English]

### Functioning of Tobacco Board

1372. SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received draft rules and regulations from the Tobacco Board for approval;

(b) if so, when and at what stage these are pending with Government;

(c) whether the Tobacco Board has been functioning on the basis of rules and regulations not approved as yet; and

(d) the guidelines, if any, communicated by Government to the Tobacco Board in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (d). The

Tobacco Board has been functioning on the basis of Tobacco Board Act, 1975 and the Tobacco Cess Act, 1975. The following Rules and Regulations have been framed:-

(i) Tobacco Board Rules, 1976.

(ii) Tobacco Board (Auction) Rules, 1984.

(iii) Tobacco Cess Rules, 1984.

(iv) Tobacco Board (General) Regulations, 1984.

(v) Tobacco Board (Auction) Regulations, 1984.

The Tobacco Board approved the Tobacco Board (Recruitment) Regulations in its meeting held on 7.9.1982 which were received on 21.10.82 for approval of Government. However, due to introduction of auction system for sale of VFC tobacco at the auction platforms in the year 1984, some new posts were sanctioned to implement the auction system. Therefore, some of the provisions of the Recruitment Regulations were amended in March, 1985. The Executive Committee of the Board considered the Regulations in its meeting held on 5.11.85 and decided to constitute a Sub-Committee to study and recommend the regulations in accordance with the instructions on the subject. The Sub-Committee submitted its report on 19.11.87. The Board in its meeting held on 17.4.88 considered the recommendations on the Sub-Committee and approved the revised Tobacco Board (Recruitment) Regulation which were received on 1.7.88 for approval of Government. These are under examination in consultation with the Ministry of Law/Department of Personnel & Training.

All the appointments/promotions etc. in the Tobacco Board are being made as per

these draft Recruitment Regulations. The policy matters of the Tobacco Board are decided by the Board/its Committees having regard to the provisions of the Tobacco Board Act and Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

#### **Women Judges in High Court.**

1373. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the total number of women judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): There are 12 women judges in position in the following High Courts:

1.	Andhra Pradesh	1
2.	Bombay	1
3.	Calcutta	2
4.	Delhi	3
5.	Kerala	1
6.	Madras	1
7.	Orissa	1
9.	Rajasthan	2
Total		12

There is no woman judge in the Supreme Court

#### **Clearance for Singur Project of Andhra Pradesh**

1374. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the likely

data by which Singur Irrigation project of Andhra Pradesh will be cleared by Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): Techno-economic appraisal of the project has been completed.

#### **Writing off of Debts to Farmers**

1375. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are aware of the growing tendency of various State Governments to write off debts to farmers;

(b) if so, whether this tendency is within the framework of the fiscal policy laid down by the Reserve Bank of India in consultation with his Ministry; and

(c) if not, what effective steps Union Government propose to take to check this growing tendency in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that some State Governments have been writing off principal amounts or interest due from farmers.

(b) The consistent stand of RBI and Central Government in this regard has been that generalised waivers or write off of farm loans through whatever modality, irrespective of the merits of each case, harm the agricultural credit system.

(c) It is also reported by RBI that a decision has been taken that henceforth State Cooperative Banks and State Land Development Banks would get refinance