

Collection of Revenue from North Bengal

5016. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state how much revenue is collected by Union Government from different sources from North Bengal comprising five districts e.g. Jalpaiguri, Cooch-Bihar, Darjeeling, West Dinajpur and Maldah?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Universal adoption of Farm Levy proposed by Government of West Bengal

5017. SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Minister has been drawn to the proposed farm levy by Government of West Bengal as seen from the Budget speech of the State Finance Minister;

(b) the salient features of the levy proposed; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon and the possibilities of universal adoption of this method of raising resources by all States including the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Task Force has been set up by the State Government to formulate the details of the proposed farm holding tax and draw up appropriate legislative proposals.

(c) Agricultural taxation is a State subject and other States can be expected to consider the West Bengal measure only when its full details become available.

Service conditions of Employees of Public Sector Undertakings

5018. SHRI HALIMUDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given instructions to all public sector undertakings, which are working as corporate bodies, not to negotiate with their respective employees for their service conditions;

(b) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court in the case of Hindustan Automobiles Ltd., a public undertaking decided that the service conditions of the employees in public sector undertakings should be fixed on the basis of industry-cum-region as the wages prevailing in the private sector undertakings; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to adopt the policy as laid down by Supreme Court in case of all Public Undertakings Managements?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) No instruction of the type referred to has been issued. However, Government have decided that till a policy on incomes and wages is formulated on the basis of the recommendations of the Study Group on Wages, Incomes and Prices under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Bhoothalingam set up in October, 1977, no wage agreement should be finalised by any Public Sector Enterprise without getting the specific approval of Government.

(b) and (c). Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the verdict of the Supreme Court given in October, 1966, in respect of the workers in Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., a Public Enterprise. The relevant extract from the judgement in question is given in the attached statement. Government keep in view the principles enunciated in the judgement as well as other relevant factors like the need to bring about rationalisation in the emoluments structure of the employees in the