

with NSIC under this scheme is equivalent to registration by DGS&D.

(iv) In respect of items of interest to SSI Units sufficient number of tender sets are supplied to NSIC to enable the latter to distribute them among SSI Units free of cost.

(b) The total value of orders placed by DGS&D during 1977-78 (Provisional) is Rs. 773.65 crores. But excluding items not within the capability of the SSI it will work out to Rs. 290.51 crores of which orders for a sum of Rs. 108.95 crores were placed on small scale industrial units.

(c) The extent of encouragement received by the small scale industries is evidenced by the upward trend in the value of orders placed on them from year to year as also in the number of items reserved for exclusive purchase from small scale industrial units.

(d) The performance of the small scale units in the fulfilment of their contractual obligations is considered to be by and large satisfactory. Wherever necessary, suitable extensions in delivery period are granted to enable them to execute the contracts. Where the performance of SSI Units is unsatisfactory, the matter is reported to NSIC, besides taking available contractual corrective steps.

#### **National Capital Region**

84. SHRI P. KANNAN: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Capital Region Plan has been dropped or drastically modified;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the broad details of the substitute scheme if any; and

(c) the expenditure incurred so far as the National Capital Region Plan and the proportion of such expenditure which can be said as not gone to waste?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) Not yet Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rs. 518 lakhs. No expenditure has gone waste, although it has not served the purpose it was intended for.

#### **Conservation of West Flowing Rivers in Tamil Nadu for Irrigation Purposes**

85. SHRI P. S. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has examined in depth the problem of west flowing rivers in the Tamil Nadu-Kerala region, the bulk of whose waters flow into the sea;

(b) whether the Central Government are convinced that the waters can be conserved for utilisation for irrigational purposes in water-starved Tamil Nadu by undertaking suitable projects; and

(c) if so, the plan envisaged by Centre for aiding construction of such projects as a top priority measure concerning the well being of a vast number of people of Tamil Nadu and Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANUPRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). A technical Committee has been set up by the Government of India in the Department of Irrigation to examine the feasibility of eastward diversion of surplus waters of the west flowing rivers of Kerala and Karnataka.

The Planning Commission have also constituted a Committee for the

assessment of water resources of rivers flowing into the Arabian sea and their utilisation.

(c) Further steps to be taken in this matter will be considered on receipt of the reports.

### Revamping of Technical Education

86. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are alive to the immediate need of revamping technical education so as to be of relevance to the immediate needs of the country;

(b) if so, the precise and positive steps taken to effect meaningful changes in the existing stream of technical education; and

(c) the period by which such steps are expected to be implemented throughout India?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) The system of Technical Education which has been developed in the country has provided the trained manpower, both in terms of number and skill, to meet the development needs of the country. Improvement of the system is, however, a continuous process to which the required attention is being given by the Government.

(b) A Working Group on Technical Education was appointed recently by the Government to review critically the present status of technical education at all levels and to suggest re-orientation and improvements to the existing programmes. The Working Group has made a number of important recommendations relevant to both the immediate and long range needs of the country. The recommendations broadly pertain to supply of adequate Technical Manpower with-

out further expansion, measures for improvement of the present system of Technical Education, promotion of closer collaboration between Technical Institutions and Industry, Industrial Research, Rural Development and Community Services.

The recommendations of the Working Group have been endorsed by the All India Council for Technical Education.

(c) Necessary communications have been addressed to the various State Governments and the Union Territories with the request to expedite the implementation of these recommendations.

### Vocational Survey for introducing Vocational Courses

87. SHRI C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which district vocational surveys have been made with a view to introducing vocational courses;

(b) the extent of Central assistance given for such surveys and the amount actually utilised; and

(c) a resume of the actual courses selected so far throughout India for the 10+2 pattern of education, indicating the order of popularity for the courses?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b). Under the Centrally sponsored scheme of financial assistance to States for vocationalisation of higher secondary education, grants-in-aid amounting to Rs. 6,97,500 have been released for the conduct of vocational surveys in the States of Assam, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa,