

(b) and (c). The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The specific information on profit index of the industry of reach year in question is not available. However, as per the report of the High Level Committee on the Cement Industry submitted to the Government in December, 1978 a study of the profitability of 19 selected factories in 1977/77-78 indicates that only 4 made profits in excess of 10 per cent post-tax return on net worth, the profits of 7 ranged from 1 per cent to 10 per cent post tax return on net worth and as many as 8 suffered losses. Data collected by the Committee also indicated that the profit of cement companies has been generally lower than of those engaged in other industrial activities.

सूरतगढ़ हवाई अड्डे हेतु अधिग्रहित की गयी भूमि के लिये मुआवजा

1082. मनफूल सिंह चौधरी : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उन किसानों को वैकल्पिक भूमि का आवंटन किया गया है जिकी भूमि सूरतगढ़ में सैनिक हवाई अड्डा बनाने के लिये अधिग्रहीत की गयी थी ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उसका व्यौरा क्या है ?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी० पी० एन० सिंह) : (क) और (ख) रक्षा मंत्रालय ने कोई वैकल्पिक भूमि नहीं दी है। उसकी जिम्मेदारी भूमि अधिग्रहण अधिनियम के अधीन मुआवजा देने की ही है। भूमि अधिग्रहण से प्रभावित व्यक्तियों के लिये भूमि की व्यवस्था करना राज्य सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है।

Drinking water facilities during 1980—85 Plan

1083. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the facilities of drinking water in the rural areas could not adequately be provid-

ed during the previous Five Year Plans; and

(b) if so, what measures are being contemplated by the Government to provide such facilities to all the villages during the 1980—85 Plan?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI N. D. TEWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the overall financial constraints, it was decided during the previous Five Year Plans that the Rural Water Supply Programme would attempt, in the first instance, to deal with 'problem' villages falling in any of the following categories:

(i) Those which do not have an assured source of drinking water within a reasonable distance (say, 1.6 km.); or

(ii) Those where the sources of water supply are endemic to water-borne diseases like cholera, or guinea-worm-infestation; or

(iii) Those which suffer from excess of salinity, iron or fluorides or other toxic elements hazardous to health.

A survey undertaken at the instance of the Central Government in 1971-72 had identified 1,52,475 villages (out of about 5.76 villages in the country) as conforming to the above criteria.

The provision of potable drinking water in the rural areas was also included in the 'Minimum Needs Programme' in the Fifth Five Year Plan. Though substantial investments have been made for this programme all the problem villages could not so far be covered during the previous Five Year Plans.

Most of the State Governments have also reported that the earlier survey was incomplete and that due to natural causes the water table had subsequently gone down in some areas or the sources had dried up, thereby increasing the number of 'problem' villages which satisfied the aforesaid criteria.

(b) The New Sixth Plan (1980—85) perspective envisages the coverage of all the problem villages with safe drinking water supply subject to the overall availability of resources. The Plan is in the preparatory stage and the details of the Plan are yet to be finalised.

Sending of Indian Cosmonaut into Space

1084. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has agreed to send an Indian cosmonaut into space;

(b) if so, the manner in which the cosmonaut is being selected and where he will be trained; and

(c) whether he will be a space scientist or belonging to some other profession?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) The Soviet Union has offered to fly an Indian cosmonaut in space. We have agreed in principle. No details have been worked out.

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

Plane crash at Udhoke Village (Amritsar)

1085. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Air Force Plane crashed near Udhoke village (Amritsar) on 21st May, 1980 and the pilot who was a sole occupant and on a practice flight, died on the spot;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any inquiry has been instituted to know the reasons and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Air Force aircraft crashed 10 Kms. South of Batala on 21st May, 1980. The pilot who was the sole occupant died on the spot.

(c) A Court of Inquiry has been ordered. The details will be known only after the Court of Inquiry proceedings are finalised.

Representation for abolition of tax on Beedi

1086. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Kerala Dinesh Beedi Workers Co-operative Society requesting to abolish tax on labelled Beedis; and

(b) steps taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

The main points raised in the representation relate to:

(i) Withdrawal of Central Excise Duty on Beedis and introducing an equal amount of duty on tobacco;

(ii) introducing Banderoll system on Beedis like match boxes, so as to distinguish between duty paid and non duty paid beedis.

(iii) strengthening the machinery for detecting illegal production of spurious beedis.

(iv) granting financial assistance of Rs. 2 crores by way of loan and grant for construction of offices and work centres.

(b) The points relating to excise duty are under examination. Regarding the