

especially the rural water supply and rural electrification ; and

(b) if so, the specific points in respect of which the aid has been offered and the steps since taken to enter into agreements with respect thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Aid offered by U.K. for Economic Development in Rural Areas

1855. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United Kingdom has offered aid for economic development in rural areas ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The assistance from the UK Government is available for mutually agreed projects irrespective of their location in urban or rural areas. The UK Government do not offer any assistance specifically assigned for the rural areas. The assistance is available for both import of goods and services from UK and for financing local costs of mutually agreed projects, including poverty—alleviation projects.

Rejection of Proposal of National Textile Corporation for increasing output of Polyester Cloth

1856. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have rejected the proposal of the National Textile Corporation to increase four-fold output of polyester ; and

(b) if so, the reason thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) There is no such proposal from the National Textile Corporation.

(b) Does not arise.

Criticism of Public Sector by F. I. C. C. I.

1857. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken note of the resolutions passed by the recently held 57th Annual Session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry ;

(b) whether in one of the resolutions, they have criticised that the Public Sector is incapable to supply goods and services and certain essential ingredients that help production ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) From the proceedings of the Fifty-seventh Annual Session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, published by the Federation, no resolution seems to have been passed criticising the public sector as incapable to supply goods and services and certain essential ingredients that help production.

(c) Does not arise.