

that the inadequate salaries of the Judges have tended to erode the status and independence of the judiciary; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to raise the salaries of the Judges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b). There is a feeling that the salaries of Judges as provided in the Constitution are not attractive enough in the changed conditions and that able members of the Bar are not willing to accept Judgeship. It would however not be correct to say that this has tended to erode the status and independence of the Judiciary. A proposal was considered by Government recently to raise the salaries of the Judges of the High Courts and Supreme Court by Rs. 500 - per month. As the proposal involved constitutional amendment, the leaders of political parties in Parliament were consulted but the consensus of opinion was not in favour of raising the salaries of Judges. The proposal had therefore to be dropped.

Appointment of Foreign Consultants in Private and Public Sector Projects.

2246. SHRI K. C. PANDEY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether in several public and private sector projects, consultants of foreign nationals have been appointed;

(b) whether several Indian firms consultants have already offered to provide consultancy service to such sectors on cheaper basis; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOP-

MENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It is now the Government's policy not to encourage foreign consultancy services in industries where the requisite consultancy services are indigenously available. Foreign consultancy services have been permitted only in those fields where either such services are not indigenously available or where services available are not considered adequate. However, even where foreign consultancy is permitted, a condition is now being stipulated that Indian consultants should also be associated from the very beginning and, as a rule, be the prime agency employed for consultancy.

Production of Paper

2247. SHRI YAJNIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ad-hoc Committee on paper has made any recommendations to Government after considering the representation of the Federation of Publishers and Booksellers regarding the rising prices of popular varieties of paper ;

(b) whether Government have urged the paper industry to adhere to the 1968 pattern of production of paper biased in favour of lighter paper;

(c) whether any licences have been issued to any company with the condition to use new capacity exclusively for producing white paper ;

(d) whether any crash programme for production of one lakh ton of white paper has been implemented; and

(e) the result of the measures taken by Government ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the letters of intent issued for setting up of new units and for expansion of capacity of the existing units, it has been stipulated that a certain percentage of the production shall be specifically earmarked for low-grammage writing and printing paper.

(d) and (e). The crash programme is under implementation. Letters of intents and capital goods clearance have been issued in the majority of cases. Remaining are in different stages of examination. It is expected that crash programme when fully implemented will, to a certain extent, relieve the shortage of white printing and writing paper.

Formation of a Coconut-based industrial complex

2248. SHRI MADHURYA HALDAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government plans to form a coconut-based industrial complex with an attached coconut farm; and

(b) if so, the particulars thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). There is no coconut-based industrial complex under consideration at present.

Centrally sponsored and subsidised schemes taken up in Bijapur District

2249. SHRI B. E. CHOUDHARI :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bijapur district has been declared as a backward district;

(b) if so, what are the Centrally sponsored and subsidised schemes taken up in the said area;

(c) the amount so far invested and yields on such investments ;

(d) whether any of the rural instructing schemes recently sanctioned to Mysore State is proposed to be located in Bijapur; and

(e) whether any of the rural industries allotted for Mysore State is proposed to be located in Bijapur ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) Yes. Bijapur is one of the districts selected for the Rural works projects in drought prone areas programme of the Ministry of Agriculture; and also under the programme for concessional finance from the financial institutions.

(b) and (c). One Rural Works Project and one Pilot Project for dry land farming have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Agriculture.

(d) and (e). The Ministry of Industrial Development have indicated that there is at present no proposal to have a rural industries project in Bijapur district.

राजस्थान के सेलखड़ी उद्योग के लिए रेल टिकटों की कमी

2250. श्री नवल किशोर शर्मा : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(a) क्या राजस्थान के सेलखड़ी उद्योग