

not been able to achieve so far the desired objectives and, therefore, the zone is virtually facing closure;

(b) if so, the urgent remedial steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether many and varied suggestions have been made by various Inquiry Committees (appointed by Government and non-Government Organisations) for making the K.F.T.Z. genuinely popular and successful, if so, the broad features thereof; and

(d) Government's response to the said suggestions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (d). Though Kandla Free Trade Zone has not been a great success, yet, it has been making some progress. Government are conscious of the need to promote its development and have initiated several measures for the purpose after taking into consideration the various suggestions made by different Committees. Besides, it is proposed to streamline the procedures further to secure speedy decisions and implementation of the same.

Family Pension Scheme for Retired Central Government Employees

9950. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposals to introduce some kind of Family Pension Scheme for the retired Central Government employees who are not covered by the present scheme; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Financial Assistance from Japan

9951. SHRI M. S. PURTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has declined to finance the projects which India proposed to set up in collaboration with Loyo Engineering Company, and

(b) whether Government are exploring the possibility of Government credits from other western countries to finance these projects and if so, to what extent Government have achieved its objects?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):

(a) Presumably the Hon. Member is referring to the setting up of fertilizer projects with Japanese assistance. We had requested the Japanese Government for assistance of the order of Yen 65.00 billion (Rs. 195.24 crores at the current rate of exchange) to cover the foreign exchange costs of 5 new fertilizer projects.

The Japanese Government have recently agreed to finance the foreign exchange costs upto the amount of Yen 32.9 billion (Rs. 98.7 crores at the current rate of exchange) of three fertilizer projects. These projects would be set up in the public sector in the 5th Plan period. A firm commitment for the financial year 1973-74 has since been made by the Japanese Government in respect of the Bhatinda Fertilizer Project upto the limit of Yen 11 billion (Rs. 33.00 crores at the current exchange rate). Similar firm commitments for the remaining two projects will be made by them on the basis of one project each during the years 1974-75 and 1975-76. The question of selecting any particular Japanese Engineering Company for assistance in setting up these Projects is still under consideration of the Government.

(b) For two other projects which will also be set up in the public sector