

World Bank's Assistance for Projects in Drought Prone Areas

739. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to assist India in setting up large scale projects for development of drought prone areas in six districts

(b) if so, what kind of assistance and the amount is likely to be received;

(c) when the work on the projects will start; and

(d) in what manner the rest of the funds are proposed to be mobilised for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b) Negotiations have been concluded with the International Development Association, Washington, for assistance for the drought—Prone areas programme, being implemented by the Government of India in the districts of Jodhpur and Nagpur in Rajasthan, Ahmednagar and Sholapur in Maharashtra, Bijapur in Karnataka and Anantpur in Andhra Pradesh. The project would consist of public works and on farm development including minor irrigation works, command area development watershed management, dry farming and sheep and dairy development.

Subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the International Development Association, an amount of about Rs. 26.25 crores (\$ 35 million) is likely to be available for this project.

(c) Some of the works on the project are already in progress.

(d) Cost in respect of on farm development would be met by institutional credits amounting to over Rs. 22.50 crores (\$ 30 million) and the rest of the funds would be met by

the Government of India and the State Governments concerned.

Impounding of Passports of Indians Living Abroad

740. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:
SHRIMATI ROZA DESH-
PANDE:
DR. H. P. SHARMA:
SHRI RAM SHEKHAR
PRASAD SINGH:
SARDAR SWARAN SINGH
SOKHI.
SHRI KUSHOK BAKULA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to impound the passports of Indian residents abroad who are found remitting money to India through compensatory payments rackets;

(b) if so, the total number of passports impounded so far; and

(c) further action proposed to be taken to stop remittances through such rackets?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Suitable penal provisions exist in the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 for dealing with such offences.

Fall in Money Supply and its effect on Inflation

741. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:
SHRI RAM SHEKHAR
PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the money supply with the public has been brought down by Rs. 299 crores during the five months ending September 1974 against a rise of Rs. 214 crores in the corresponding period last year;