

MORARJI DESAI : (a) No, Sir. The maximum marginal rate of income tax (including surcharge) under the proposals in the Finance Bill, 1969 is 82.5% and it is attracted when the income exceeds Rs. 2,50,000.

(b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration of Government.

Consultation with State Governments before Setting up Finance Commission

5468, SHRI MAYAVAN : Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there is any proposal before Government to consult the respective State Governments as to their demands before setting up of the Finance Commission; and

(b) If not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) and (b). The Finance Commission is periodically constituted by the President in pursuance of article 280 of the Constitution and its terms of reference are also provided for in the Constitution itself. There is, therefore, no question of the Central Government consulting the State Governments as to their demands before the setting up of the Finance Commission. However, after the Commission is set up, the State Governments place before it their demands and the Commission consider them before making its recommendations.

Extension of National Savings Scheme in Tribal Areas

5469. SHRI YASHPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any proposals underway to extend the scope of the National Saving Scheme in remote tribal areas ;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction ; and

(c) the suggestions received from different States in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) and (b). Efforts are continually made to spread the savings movement in rural areas including tribal areas. Campaigns to educate rural and tribal people in the benefits of savings are undertaken by the National Savings Organisation with the co-operation of State Governments and Panchayat Administrations and the Plan is to cover rural and tribal households through teams of voluntary workers. For this purpose publicity is organised through audio-visual media like films, folk songs etc. and a large number of Branch Post Offices in rural areas have also been invested with Savings Bank powers—these now number about 61,000.

(c) No specific suggestion for extending the scope of the savings Scheme to tribal areas has been received from any State Government.

उत्तर बिहार के ग्रामों में विद्युतीकरण के लिए धन का नियतन

5470. श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : क्या सिन्हाई तथा विद्युत् मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या वर्ष 1969-70 के लिए बिहार में, विशेषतया उत्तर बिहार में ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण के लिए बिहार सरकार से कोई विशिष्ट राशि मांगी गई है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितनी राशि मांगी गई है और सरकार द्वारा इस बारे में क्या अग्रतर कार्यवाही किये जाने का विचार है ?

सिन्हाई तथा विद्युत् मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : (क) और (ख). बिहार सरकार ने 1969-70 के दौरान उत्तरी बिहार में ग्राम विद्युतीकरण के लिए कोई विशेष राशि के लिए नहीं