

Production of Drilling Rigs and Boaring Pipes for Completion of River Valley Scheme

5611. SHRI BHOGENDR A JHA : Will be the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2475 on the 11th March, 1970 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Heavy Engineering, Corporation (Ranchi) is capable of producing drilling rigs and boaring pipes for irrigation purposes on big scale;

(b) if so, whether his ministry is proposing to put orders to the Heavy Engineering Corporation and other manufacturers for rigs and pipes to the fullest capacity achievable in our country;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Rajasthan, Gandak, Western Koshi and other major schemes can be completed earlier if adequate funds are made available; and

(e) if so, why bank credits could not be diverted ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) The Ministry of Steel and Heavy Engineering have indicated that the production profile of Heavy Machine Building Plant of Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., Ranchi, includes oil well drilling rigs which are heavy items of equipment. However, as a measure of diversification and in order to meet the country's urgent needs, the Plant has developed the manufacture of three types of water well drilling rigs. The type of rigs and the number of rigs to be manufactured have been decided upon after consultation with the various State Governments who are the main buyers, and after assessing the capacity available in units other than Heavy Engineering Corporation for the manufacture of water well drilling rigs.

(b) and (c). The Ministry of Food & Agriculture have indicated that the responsibility for ground water development rests with the State Governments, who themselves place orders for the procurement of rigs.

(d) and (e). The Western Koshi Canal Scheme can be taken up only after the concurrence of His Majesty's Govern-

ment of Nepal to the alignment of the first 22 miles of the canal is accorded.

The nationalisation of major commercial banks has been taken into consideration by the Planning Commission while re-assessing the resources for the Fourth Plan. Maximum allocations possible, keeping the resources position in view, have been made by the Planning Commission in the State Plans for the Rajasthan Canal and Gandak Project.

Construction of Separate Cell in Ministry for dealing with Rural Electrification

5613. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a separate Cell for looking after the rural electrification work and that it is proposed to provide separate financial assistance for this propose;

(b) if so, the amount of assistance proposed to be provided to Bihar under the head during the current year;

(c) whether Government have also formulated a Scheme under which assistance will be given to small farmers for the supply of electricity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof in respect of each State and the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) (a) to (d). Government have constituted in the Central Sector the Rural Electrification Corporation which would provide finances for rural electrification schemes in addition to outlays provided by State Governments within their own State Plans. The Corporation would provide additional resources for accelerating the progress of rural electrification schemes. The Corporation have so far sanctioned loans amounting to about Rs. 590 lakhs for supply to electricity to farmers in rural areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Schemes received from State Electricity Board of the other States including Bihar are under consideration of the Corporation. In respect of Bihar, 7 scheme have been received by the Corporation covering a financial outlay of about Rs. 317 lakhs.