

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of indigenous companies which are manufacturing such machines themselves and the number of companies which are selling foreign made machines;

(d) the names of agencies responsible for the pricing and quality of these machines; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the inflow of low quality of machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Under various Central Schemes, assistance is being provided for installing drip/sprinkler irrigation systems @90 percent of cost subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 25000/- per hectare for Small, Marginal Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and Women farmers and @70 percent of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 25,000/- per hectare for other category of farmers. However the assistance would be available to the farmers only if the drip/sprinkler systems are purchased from the companies which are registered with the State Governments or the National Committee on Use of Plastics in Agriculture (NCPA). The Government of India has issued guidelines for registration of companies which stipulate that the companies should have Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certificate. Permission is granted to import some of the system components to the companies who have the intention to manufacture the imported components in the country within a period of two years. All the companies which enter into joint venture of foreign collaboration are also required to obtain the certificate from Bureau of Indian Standards or Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology, Vadodra before selling their product in the country. Presently about 65 companies are manufacturing the system components by themselves while permission has been granted for four companies for importing some of the components.

(d) The normative price of the components for providing assistance under the Scheme on 'Use of Plastics in Agriculture' is fixed by the Government of India. The Bureau of Indian Standards and the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology, Vadodra ensure minimum quality standards of the products used under the micro irrigation system by issuing necessary certificate.

(e) All the State Implementing Departments have been directed by the Government of India to register and permit the sale of micro irrigation system components only from those companies which manufacture components having

certificate from the Bureau of Indian Standards or Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology.

World Bank Aid Fisheries Sector

4198. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has received the World Bank aid of 240 million dollar to start a project to train manpower in the fisheries sector;

(b) if so, whether any programme has been prepared by the Council to utilise these funds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No Sir. World Bank has approved to support the National Agricultural Technology Project for technology generation, refinement and dissemination in agriculture at a total cost of US\$ 239.7 million covering all major production systems including fishery.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Council and the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation have jointly finalised the plan of activities under three different components of the project, namely (i) Organisation and management systems, (ii) Strengthening of agro-ecosystem research, and (iii) Technology dissemination. The project will provide support for infrastructure, human resource development, development of information system etc. The project is due to start in the current year soon after the same is approved by the Cabinet.

Reservation in Promotions

4199. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Article 16(4)A of the Constitution empowers Government to make provision of reservation in promotion to any class or classes of posts under the State in favour of SCs/STs where they are not represented adequately;

(b) whether the Government have taken away the rights of SCs/STs by way of circulars dated January 30, 97, July 2,97, July 22,97 and August 29,97 by which well established provisions of reservation for SCs/STs