

- iii) Refund of the duty paid on any imported or excisable material used in the manufacture of export goods;
- iv) Exemption of export earnings from income-tax under section 80 HHC; and
- v) Enhancement of duty credit rates under the Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme of most of the iron and steel items to encourage export of iron and steel.

Expenditure on Fuel by A.I.

1378. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India had spent more than original estimates on fuel during the current financial year;
- (b) if so, the actual amount spent on fuel vis-a-vis the estimated amount;
- (c) the reasons for making this additional expenditure; and
- (d) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Air India's fuel expenditure during 1997-98 was Rs. 649 crores as against the budget estimate of Rs.794.38 crores.

- (c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Incentives to WLDP

1379. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are considering of giving some incentives including tax relief to motivate the corporate sector for taking up Wastelands Development Programme ;
- (b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be finalised;
- (c) whether some Wastelands Projects of Rajasthan State are pending with the Union Government for clearance;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the same are likely to be cleared;
- (e) whether the Government are considering revising the cost per hectare of Wastelands Development Programme

in view of the geographic condition and adverse climatic condition of the State;

- (f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be;
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) A Central Sector Investment Promotional Scheme (IPS) was launched during 1994-95 to channelise/mobilise financial resources from financial institutions, banks, corporate bodies etc. for development of Wastelands in non-forest areas belonging to Central and State Governments, Panchayats, Village Communities, private farmers etc; however on the basis of recommendations of Standing Committee of Parliament for Urban and Rural Development, the scheme is being restructured and likely to be finalised shortly.

(c) and (d) Under the Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Wastelands Developments Project (IWDP), Out of three pending proposals received from the State Government of Rajasthan for two projects, additional information from Rajasthan is awaited and that the 3rd project is under processing. The sanction of these projects will depend upon the response of Rajasthan State and other aspects such as viability and conformity with the guidelines and availability of budgetary resources and hence time frame could not be indicated.

(e) to (g) As per the common guidelines on Watershed Development of Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, the provision of cost per hectare for wastelands development programme is Rs.4000/-; however the State Watershed Programme Implementation and Review Committee is empowered to enhance the cost norms for the geographic locations which are subject to adverse climatic conditions.

Urban Local Bodies.

1380. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 1137 on 30.7.97 and state:

- (a) the names of the Urban Local Bodies in Scheduled Areas of Orissa;
- (b) whether there was some omission of the names of the Notified Area Committees and Municipalities located in Scheduled Areas of the State;
- (c) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (d) the priorities and programmes undertaken by the Union Government and State Government to develop these