

be fixed taking into account the resource potential, the infrastructure available and incidence of poverty;

- (2) In the selection of investment activities due consideration should be given to the skills and capabilities of the beneficiaries and their preferences;
- (3) The cluster approach should be such so that both spatial and functional requirements are met;
- (4) The banks and district rural development agencies should impress upon the beneficiaries the need for adhering to technical specifications;
- (5) The development of infrastructure may be given greater attention to support the large programme of investment envisaged under the Integrated Rural Development Programme.

2. The findings of the study were considered by the Board of Directors of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and the concerned authority was advised to rectify the shortcomings brought out in the study report.

Task Force set up to Monitor Coal Supplies to Thermal Power Stations

*623. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Task Force comprising of senior representatives from Railway Board, Departments of Power and Coal has been set up to monitor coal supplies to all the thermal power stations;

(b) if so, the other functions this Task Force will perform;

(c) the main decisions taken by this Task Force; and

(d) the extent to which the setting up of this Task Force has helped in the supply of coal to all the thermal power stations ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir. It was decided in the meeting held in the Department of Coal on 30.3.85 that a Task Force would be set up to review coal supplies to Power Stations.

(b) to (d). The Task Force has been reviewing coal supplies to Power Stations so that any problems can be tackled on urgent basis. There has generally, been improvement in the coal supplies to Power Stations with low stocks, since the Task Force was set up.

Export Quota for Cotton from Andhra Pradesh

*624. SHRI M. SUBBA REDDY : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to overcome the distress sale of cotton by farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Government propose to apportion export quota of cotton from Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). There is no information regarding distress sale of cotton by farmers of Andhra Pradesh. Effective price support is extended by Cotton Corporation of India.

Besides the price support operation, the Cotton Corporation of India also makes commercial purchases in Andhra Pradesh for domestic consumption as also for export. Out of the assessed surplus of long and extra long staple cotton, the Co-operative Marketing Federation of Andhra Pradesh has been allotted 10,000 bales for export.

Ad-Hoc Licences Issued for Import of Dry Fruits to N.C.C.F.

*625. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether ad-hoc import licences were issued to M/s National Cooperative