

- (2) Treatment of wastewater with recovery of resources.
- (3) Low Cost Sanitation.
- (4) Facilities for direct river users.
- (5) Biological conservation schemes.

These schemes cover 27 Class-I cities located along the bank of the river. Work has already commenced in 22. During the 7th Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 240 crores has been allocated for execution of the schemes under the Plan.

#### Industrial Advisory Cell in State Bank of Travancore

\*292. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Industrial Advisory Cell has been set up in the State Bank of Travancore;

(b) if so, the location thereof and the salient features of the cell;

(c) whether any other nationalised banks have set up any such cells if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether these cells give any special preference to industries which are planned to be located in backward areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The State Bank of Travancore has reported that they have not set up any Industrial Advisory Cell, but there is a Technical Consultancy Cell functioning at their Head Office in Trivandrum. The Cell caters to the requirements of small scale sector. It evaluates new projects and conducts feasibility studies of sick small scale units. It also provides counselling to the new as well as existing entrepreneurs, besides conducting entrepreneur development programmes.

(c) and (d). Some nationalised banks have set up Technical Consultancy Cells, whose main function is to provide information to entrepreneurs and to undertake feasibility studies. They also provide information to the entrepreneurs regarding

special incentives available for projects to be set up in backward areas.

#### Excise rebate on minor oils used in Vanaspati manufacture

\*293. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Vanaspati Producers' Association has demanded increase in the excise rebate for minor oils used in the manufacture of vanaspati from Rs. 1000/- per tonne to Rs. 1500/- per tonne; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After due consideration, the suggestion was not found acceptable.

#### Proposal to open Zonal Office of G.I.C. in Patna

\*294. DR. C. P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bihar is an economically backward state;

(b) whether there was any proposal to open the Zonal Office of General Insurance Corporation at Patna, to improve the economy and to provide facilities to people there; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Bihar is not as developed as some of the other States.

The four general insurance companies which are subsidiaries of the General Insurance Corporation do not have Zonal Offices but have a system of Regional Offices which supervise the work of Divisional Offices and Branch Offices. The setting up of a Regional Office is governed by