

- (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

Certain criteria laid down by the Board of the GIC such as the volume of premium income, divisional offices to be supervised and cost norms. Setting up of a Regional Office in Bihar has not been found feasible since none of the companies is as of now in a position to comply with the norms.

Manufacture of V.C.Rs and V.C.Ps

*297. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited, a public sector undertaking, has entered into collaboration with a West German company for manufacture of VCRs and VCPs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Atomic Power Plant in Andhra Pradesh

*298. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Site Selection Committee of the Department of Atomic Energy visited Andhra Pradesh for a suitable site for setting up of an Atomic Power Plant in the State;

(b) if so, the site recommended by the committee for setting up of an Atomic Power Plant in the State; and

(c) the time by which construction of the plant will be taken up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Site Selection Committee of the Department of Atomic Energy has

assessed the suitability of various sites in Andhra Pradesh for setting up of an atomic power plant. The report of the Committee for the Southern Electricity Region of which Andhra Pradesh is a constituent state, is under consideration of the Government.

Payment of matured claims by Peerless

*299. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited is making payment of matured claims of certificate holders and depositors; and

(b) if not, the steps taken to ensure prompt payment of rightful claims by the Company and to protect the interests of the depositors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has not received official information as to whether Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited is making payment of matured claims to certificate holders and depositors. It has asked for this information from the Company. RBI has also been advised to take steps to regulate the activities of the Company to prevent the exploitation of subscribers in the light of recent Supreme Court Judgement.

The Company is required to make payment to the subscribers as per contract entered into between the Company and the subscribers. In the event of non-payment of any claim, the remedy lies in enforcement of the claim through a court of Law.

Effect on India's monetary system due to instability of exchange rates

*300. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's monetary system is affected by instability of exchange rates;