

ceiling of parents has also been raised from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000.

The ceiling of cost of construction of hostel buildings for SC/ST girls has been raised per hosteler from Rs. 7150 to Rs. 7790 for plain areas and from Rs. 12775 to Rs. 17125 for hill areas with effect from 1 April 1986.

The total number of SC/ST scholarships for studies overseas has been raised from, 21 to 25. Similarly the rates of maintenance allowance have also been increased.

Ten Community Polytechnics have been opened in the minority concentration areas with a view to extending the benefits of skill training to persons belonging to educationally backward minorities.

The Special Coaching Scheme for the students belonging to educationally backward minorities is being operated in 20 Universities and 15 affiliated colleges at present.

(c) and (d). The main difficulty in the States with regard to the implementation of the NPE is lack of funds. Although State Governments have demonstrated the will and determination to implement the Policy, adequate funds have not been forthcoming. Efforts are being made to secure additional financial resources for the States through State Plans and through Centrally Sponsored and Central Schemes.

[*Translation*]

Pending Irrigation Projects of Maharashtra

65. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of irrigation projects in Maharashtra pending for more than one year;

(b) the actual period for which these projects have been pending and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the people of the area in which these projects are to be set up have assured the Government of planting trees equal to the number of trees required to be felled for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES: (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Fifteen major and twelve medium irrigation projects received during 1981, to 1986, are pending with the State Government for compliance of comments/observations of Central Water Commission/Planning Commission sent after due examination. Two major projects, namely, Warna and Panzan (Ex-Girna Dam) are pending with Centre. The techno-economic appraisal of the Warna Project has been completed. Panzan Project has been implemented to the extent of 90% and, therefore, its examination is not considered necessary.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Setting up Mini Steel Plants during 7th Plan

* 66. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up mini steel plants in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the names of States where these plants are likely to be set up; and

(c) the amount allocated for these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total Plan provisions in the Seventh Five Year Plan for all new steel projects is Rs. 10 crores.