

Contribution of Water and Power Consultancy Services Ltd. in irrigation management

*997. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any initiation in regard to Irrigation Management and Training Project Programme has been taken by the Water and Power Consultancy Services Ltd. (WAPCO); and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited (WAPCO)'s has signed an agreement with the Central Water Commission to provide consultancy services in the areas of training, adaptive research, action research on operational systems, technology transfer, development of training materials and manuals etc., to the CWC and to State Water and Land management Institutes and other technical institutes under the Irrigation Management and Training Project.

Steps to improve the working of N.T.C., New Delhi

*998. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken further steps to improve the working of the National Textile Corporation Mills, New Delhi and its subsidiaries;

(b) whether its earlier efforts in that regard could not achieve results and improve the profit earning capacities of each of the units/mills;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) the corrective measures taken by Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (d) Improving the performance of textile mills under the National Textile Corporation is a continuous process. The impact of such measures is reviewed and fresh measures are taken. NTC has not been able to contain its losses mainly because of the inadequacy of investment in modernisation, lack of working capital funds, steep rise in the price of cotton, NTC has formulated fresh turn-around strategy based on selective modernisation with the help of institutional finance amalgamation of units, closure of uneconomic activities, etc.

Rebate to farmers on loans for Irrigational purposes

*999. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE :
CHAUDHARY RAM PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to grant any special rebate to the farmers on the loans taken by them for the irrigational purposes during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the nature of rebate proposed to be given;

(c) whether Government propose to extend this facility especially to the farmers belonging to the tribals and backward classes in Orissa and provide them interest free loans for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposal and if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d) Banks provide investment credit to farmers for minor irrigation purposes at a concessional rate of interest of 10% per annum. Under a centrally-sponsored Scheme for Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers for increasing Agricultural

Production, subsidy to the extent of 25% for small farmers, 33-1/3% for marginal farmers and 50% for tribal farmers is admissible for individual minor irrigation schemes. Another centrally-sponsored scheme entitled 'Encouraging irrigation through the use of sprinklers/drip system, hydrams water turbines, man, or animal operated pumps' provides for subsidy to the extent of 25% to small farmers, 33-1/3% to marginal farmers and 50% to be small and marginal farmers belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes for installation of water saving devices for irrigation. There is, however, no proposal to give interest free bank loans to farmers for irrigation purposes.

Investment by financial Institutions in West Bengal

9898. SHRI SANAT KUNAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that various all India financial institutions have 'discriminatory' investment policies for investment in West Bengal ;

(b) if so; the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures Government propose to take in the matter in view of mounting unemployment in West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) All India Financial Institutions do not adopt any discriminatory policy for extending financial assistance in any State. State-wise distribution of assistance of financial institutions depends upon the number of applications for viable projects originating from different States and, *inter-alia* locational decisions of entrepreneurs. Locational decisions of entrepreneurs in turn depend upon factors which include availability of skilled labour, power and other infrastructural facilities.

With a view to encouraging industrialisation in specified backward areas, institutions provide financial assistance on concessional terms to units set up in the backward areas.

Cases of Tax-evasion

9899. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tax-evasion cases pending before the different courts at present;

(b) since when these cases are pending;

(c) whether Government propose to set up special courts to deal with tax evaders more effectively; and

(d) if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) and (d) There are 4711 cases of anti smuggling and Central excise evasion pending disposal before different courts—the oldest one pending since 1961.

(c) and (d) Setting up of Special courts is done by the State Governments. The following States/Union Territories have set up special courts for trial of economic offences.

Andhra Pradesh

Bihar

Karnataka

Kerala

Madhya Pradesh

Orissa

Rajasthan

Tamil Nadu