

the planning, financing, implementation, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects is done by State Government and technical examinations of the reports of large and medium irrigation projects is done by the Central Water Commission and other concerned Ministries. Then these projects are placed before the Technical Advisory Committee. But this situation arises only when the State Government submits some such projects. As regards the project which the hon. Member mentioned in his question, I would like to say that in part (c) of my reply I have clearly stated that no such project was submitted to the Central Government and in part (d) that the question does not arise because when there is no proposal sent how can the Government take it up for consideration?

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that under the Orissa Irrigation Project, Phase-III, many medium and major irrigation projects are waiting for World Bank assistance for their modernisation. We have submitted the Subarnarekha and Rengali Irrigation Projects to the Union Government for Russian assistance. May I know what is the progress in this regard? Besides, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the State Government of Orissa has submitted proposals for river basin development of Subarnarekha and some other rivers of the State? If so, what is the progress in these cases?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: As I said before, the Subarnarekha Project has been submitted to the World Bank for financial assistance. As to the second question, the work to be done on the Subarnarekha Project in Orissa will be a continuation of the work being done on the Subarnarekha Project in Bihar. As I have already clarified, this project has not been finalised as yet although we have submitted a proposal in this regard. There are three works which are to

be undertaken under the Subarnarekha Project. These works are; construction of the canal, remodelling of the Haldia dam project and construction of two auxiliary reservoirs. This is what I have stated in my reply. There is no question of an assurance from the World Bank as the proposal has been sent to them. Neither do we have any suggestion now information regarding assistance to be received from the Russia.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, the Subarnarekha project also involves West Bengal about which the hon. Minister has just now mentioned. The project details have been submitted from West Bengal side as also, I believe, from Orissa side. Is it a fact that those details are still pending for clearance from the Department of Environment of the Government of India? That is the reason why it has not been taken up yet. If so, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will clear the project from the environmental side. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister the progress made in this matter.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: This question concerns the Department of Environment. But this matter will be raised in the meeting of the Co-ordination Committee. If the hon. Member want this information, it is not readily available with me.

[English]

Transfer of Bank Executives

*681. SHRI SHRIHARI RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms and guidelines for transferring bank executives; and

(b) whether the said norms and guidelines are being strictly followed and implemented in such transfer cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Norms and guidelines for transferring bank executives are laid down by each bank. However, banks have been advised by Government to ensure periodic rotation of officers. As per available information, Banks have been following their laid down policies

SHRI SRIHARI RAO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all banks come under the Reserve Bank directions only. So, how can the norms and guidelines differ from bank to bank? In some banks, the Executives are transferred within a radius of 50 miles and in some other banks the executives are transferred from one State to another State. How does it happen? I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will see that the guidelines are uniform for all the banks.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, all the guidelines which are in detail are not and in fact cannot be uniform for all the banks because the spread of the banks varies. There are smaller banks concentrated in such areas in North, for instance, like the Oriental Bank of Commerce or some such banks. There are other banks which are concentrated in the South like the I.O.B. Then, the Andhra Bank is there in the area of my friend. The State Bank is spread all over the country. So, the spread is different. The opportunities are different and the problems of the staff are different. However, within these diversities which cannot and should not be affected, there must be a degree of uniformity and I agree with the hon. Member that the degree of uniformity and broad guidelines uniformly followed must be there. I would like to say for the information of the hon. House and the Member that the Government has issued some broad guidelines and I would like to mention some of them. One will be the rotation of the officer and the clerical staff. In case of officers, the rotation should be every three years and for clerical staff, every five years. But I would also add this rider that the implementation is subject to administrative convenience and

when I say administrative convenience, we have also emphasised that under the administrative convenience cloak, fair and impartial implementation of the transfer policy should not be affected which means the transfer policy, whatever it is, must be firmly and impartially implemented on the merits of the individual request and independently of the pressure.

Now, we have guidelines on rural posting that we have given to the different banks which they must all implement. That means, two years rural experience for promotions from scale-1 to Scale-2 and three years rural experience for promotions from scale-2 to scale-3. Then, on the question of posting of husband and wife at the same station, if the spouse belongs to the same bank and even when the spouse belongs to a different bank but not when one of the spouses is in the bank and the other is in a public sector undertaking or somewhere else, that will not be possible—again it is subject to the administrative convenience, availability of vacancies—to the extent possible they must be posted together. These are some of the broad guidelines which will ensure uniformity in substance. So, an amount of diversity cannot and should not be avoided.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: The reason behind corruption in banks is that senior officers and clerks are not transferred for 10-15 years. This creates vested interests and it becomes a racket. Officers and clerks have not been transferred since the day the branch opened. If they are transferred, corruption will come to an end and rackets too will come to light. I can cite examples where guidelines have not been followed by them.

[English]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, a general allegation of this nature does not deserve to be accepted. But surely it is my duty and the duty of the Government to look into specific cases and take action. I request

the hon. Member to bring such specific cases to our notice and we will take action.

SHRI HET RAM: Sir, the Indian Overseas bank has promoted some officers and is going to transfer them. Most of them are Scheduled Castes. But officers sitting in Madras, Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi from the date of their joining for 10 years or 15 years manage their transfers from one branch to another branch in the same metropolitan city. Secondly, those who join in the branches of the metropolitan cities retire at the same places. As I worked in the Indian Overseas Bank, I know that due to the long stay at the same place corruption is breeding because people manipulate their postings. This is a fact that they manage transfers from one branch to another in the same city and do not wish to go to rural or semi-urban areas. The policy of transfer is only for the Scheduled Castes whereas others are manipulating to stay at the places even after their promotion. Why the banks are not having a uniform policy to first transfer those who are staying for 10 years or more and then transfer the Scheduled Castes persons?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, the hon. Member mentioned the specific case of Indian Overseas bank and the specific case of the staff of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes origin in that bank. I would like to say, Sir, that I will sit with the hon. Member immediately after the Question Hour and look into this today itself.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 682 - Shri Ram Bahadur Singh. (Ends)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, he is not here, but I pray that this question be taken up. It is a very important question. It is a matter of very high national interest.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 683 - Shrimati Basavarajeswari.

Rise in Wholesale Price Index

*683. **SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI**
SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a hike in the wholesale price index in the month of March;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which the wholesale price index has risen; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to check the rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The Wholesale Price Index has gone up by 1.2 per cent during the month of March 1989 on a point to point basis (25th February to 25th March, 1989). The rise in the index has been on account of increases in prices of specific items such as raw jute, tea, potatoes, gur and non-ferrous metals and alloys which have gone up due to shortfall in production or higher international prices.

The Government has adopted a package of measures to keep the prices under reasonable check. These include, supply of essential commodities through public distribution system, augmenting domestic supplies through imports as feasible, exercising strict fiscal and monetary discipline and action against hoarders and black marketeers.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Sir, I would like to know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the price index during these two years is rising very much especially during the months of March and April this year. Last year there was a severe drought. The seasons are very favourable this year. In spite of that the prices of various commodities, i.e., consumer goods like vegetables, fruits etc. etc. are