

on ITC and other rubber traders and that serious things have been found. It is also reported that show-cause notices were issued and proceedings under Section 52A have been started. In the answer it is said that no pending case have been compounded. I would like to know what is the amount that you have collected and whether you have compounded these matters directly with them. What is the position at this stage in respect of the raids affected on ITC and other rubber traders ?

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** According to the Department a sum of Rs. 3 crores is involved. Show-cause notice has been issued and action is being taken.

**SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS :** From ITC how much amount has been realised?

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** I have said that notice is being issued.

#### L.I.C. Loans for Water Supply Schemes

\*579. **SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation gives loan to various Municipalities/Corporations for executing water supply schemes under the guarantee of the respective State Governments ;

(b) the procedure for granting such loans to Municipal Committees/Municipal Corporations ; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to simplify the procedure by giving the lump-sum amount to the State Government concerned, as per Plan allocations, for granting loan to the Municipal Committees/Municipal Corporations ?

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

(b) and (c). A statement is given below.

#### Statement

The loan applications for technically and administratively approved schemes of Government received from state Governments or the State-level Boards, wherever constituted, are examined by the Life Insurance Corporation of India. Justification and financial viability of the Schemes are established before sanction of loans. After execution of agreement by the borrower and Guarantee Deed by the State Government concerned, loans are disbursed in instalments looking to the financial and physical progress of the Schemes in hand subject to the allocations made by the Planning Commission.

In the overall interest of the policy-holders, it is necessary for the LIC to monitor the physical progress of each Scheme to ensure proper utilisation of funds and also matching contributions by the Municipalities, etc.

[Translation]

**SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister as to how many Municipal Corporations, and in which States, have been given loans by the Life Insurance Corporation and how many cases are still pending ?

[English]

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** I will furnish the details to the hon. Member about the amount that is being given.

[Translation]

**SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, to clear the pending cases and to solve the drinking water problem in the urban areas, will any system be devised by which the funds become available at the earliest ?

[English]

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** Each case will be examined on merit. The

rule is that the proposal has to come through the State Government. Whenever the proposal comes, we will certainly examine it.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan is affected by severe famine every year and there is serious water scarcity and even now in the large cities water is available for not more than half-an-hour in a day. In this connection, I want to know to whether the schemes pertaining to big municipal areas which were sent by the State Governments for sanction have been cleared and will you cooperate in making available funds from the Life Insurance Corporation for executing the water supply schemes.

[*English*]

**MR. SPEAKER :** Question Hour is over.

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** For water supply, we have given.....

(*Interruptions*)

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

### Mediocrity In Science and Technology

\*580. **DR. C.P. THAKUR :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister suggested at the Indian Science Congress removal of mediocrity in the fields of science & technology ; and

(b) if so the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the steps taken or proposed to be taken to promote excellence and weed out mediocrity are as follows :

- (i) Substantial step up in financial resources in all fields of Science and Technology to enhance and modernise the S&T infrastructure.
- (ii) Create appropriate environment in the functioning of scientific departments and scientific institutions, particularly giving them sufficient autonomy in their functioning.
- (iii) Provision of better working conditions facilities and emoluments to scientific community including a system of promotion to ensure recognition of merit for the advancement of S&T personnel.
- (iv) Formulation and implementation of various programmes for promoting research and development in the country to enable scientific community to work on frontline and challenging areas of science and technology.
- (v) Appropriate review mechanisms for evaluation of S&T institutions and programmes through the scientific peers to ensure improvement in standards of performance.
- (vi) Introducing a system of rewards and recognition for outstanding scientific work.
- (vii) Setting time-bound targets for performance in priority areas in the form of technology missions.
- (viii) Better opportunities for training young scientists in India and abroad in various selected fields of science and technology.

### Cancer Due to Diesel Fume

\*581. **SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether diesel fume is a cause of cancer ;