

Government take necessary action to see that the cost of production is brought down to a considerable extent ?

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** Firstly, the coconut and copra are not allowed to be exported. So, the hon. Member is wrong in saying that it is exported and, therefore, the price has gone up.

The main reason for the rise in prices of coconut is, as I stated before, because of the low production this year due to drought and root-wilt disease. The Government is very keen to increase the production of coconut in the country. Therefore, several schemes are taken up for the benefit of farmers. There are Centrally-sponsored schemes. The Coconut Development Board is also there. The Kerala Agricultural Development project with the World Bank assistance is being undertaken. Once the production increases, the prices will automatically come down.

**SHRI T.R. SHAMANNA :** A large quantity of tender coconut is used. I find nearly about 2 lakh tender coconut are used every day in Bangalore city alone. Since it is a commercial crop, I want that all steps should be taken to see that the price of coconut is brought down. The production of coconut must be increased and all sorts of diseases that are there are removed. I find that no effective steps are taken to remove the diseases, to see that the yield increases and also to see that the quality of coconut is improved. I want that special attention should be given to this important factor. I want an assurance from the hon. Minister as to whether all these steps will be taken and, if necessary, to appoint experts to find out the reasons for the low production, causes for the diseases and how to increase the production.

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** It is wrong to say that no steps are taken to remove the diseases and to increase the production of coconut. In fact, various schemes, as I informed the House just now, are undertaken by the Government. Our scientists are working for the removal of root-wilt diseases which have cropped up in Kerala and other parts of the country.

**SHRI E. BALANANDAN :** It is true that the Government is taking necessary steps to increase the production of coconut. But, at the same time, may I know from the hon. Minister how many schemes as recommended by the Coconut Development Board, are still not cleared by the Central Government ? Without clearing the projects, how can we improve the coconut production in the country ?

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** Almost all schemes have been cleared by the Government. There may be some schemes which may be under examination of the Government of India.

#### Lower Lagyap Hydel Project, Sikkim

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\*317. **SHRI R.P. DAS :**  
**SHRI ANANDA PATHAK :**

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Lower Lagyap Hydel Project at Ranipal, Sikkim has been completed and is likely to be handed over to the State Government on 31st March, 1984 ;

(b) if so, how many employees (work-charged) are likely to be rendered surplus in that project ;

(c) whether Government are taking steps to absorb the surplus work-charged staff of Lower Lagyap Hydel Project, Sikkim in alternate jobs ; and

(d) whether such absorbed staff will be given pay and service protection as per the assurance given by official side to the staff representatives in a meeting held on 12 and 14 November, 1983 in the Lower Lagyap Hydel Project, Ranipal ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :** (a) The Lower Lygyap Hydel Project in Sikkim has been completed. The Project is proposed to be transferred to the Government of Sikkim with effect from the 1st April, 1984 for

future operation and maintenance.

(b) and (c). On 1.1.1984, about 550 work-charged personnel were assessed as likely to be surplus. As a result of efforts made by the Government of India, the Sikkim Government is expected to issue offers of appointment to about 100 personnel. The Central Water Commission has also offered alternative employment to about 130 personnel in various field formations.

(d) The protection, as admissible under the rules, will be provided to such absorbed staff.

SHRI R.P. DAS : I am glad that 230 work-charged employees of the Project have been absorbed by giving them alternative jobs. There are in all 550 work-charged employees in the Project. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the fate of the remaining 320 work-charged employees who are also rendered surplus in that project and how they are going to be absorbed. I also want to know whether the benefits of pay protection; leave benefits and pensionary benefits will be extended to these work-charged employees after absorption in the same or analogous posts.

MR. SPEAKER : The Question Hour is over now.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Export of Machinery and Engineering goods to Zimbabwe

\*283. SHRIMATI USHA PRAKASH CHOUDHARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Engineering Export Promotion Council's survey had suggested steps for exporting machinery and Engineering goods to Zimbabwe ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Engineering Export Promotion Council's survey had suggested the following steps for exporting machinery and Engineering goods to Zimbabwe :-

1. The engineering and industrial sector of economy of Zimbabwe is relatively developed and has adequate infrastructure and scope for further development. At present, the existing machinery, machine tools and equipment are considerably worn-out and outdated. Willingness exists for replacement, renovation and modernization. It is, therefore, recommended that the Indian manufacturers should establish contacts and rapport with the needing industries for their machinery and machine tools by frequent visits.

2. The large industrial groups and manufacturers of Indian engineering industries should involve themselves in providing more collaborations and joint ventures with Indian technology to Zimbabwean industries to help them in their renovation, modernisation and expansion programme and also for setting up new industries.

3. Zimbabwe has assumed great importance for coordination of all the developmental economic activities of SADCC. As many as 106 development projects have been planned among nine countries of this bloc. Within Zimbabwe a number of plans and activities have been geared up for revival, and expansion of economy. Indian technology and engineering capabilities are new to them. The Indian industrial, civil and technological achievements in India and abroad are not known to them.

4. Considerable stress has been given and plans prepared to decentralise the industries and develop agro-based, labour-intensive, small-and-medium scale industries all over the country specially in communal and rural areas. Under Ministry of Trade and Commerce, SEDCO (Small Enterprises Development Corporation) has already been created. A study of probable projects be initiated by NSSIC (National Small Scale