

FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that \$20 million aid for Family Planning has been extended by U.S.A. Government;

(b) if so, in which part of the country this aid will be utilised; and

(c) the total amount which is likely to be spent on Family Planning in the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are being worked out.

(c) Rs. 52 crores are provided for the Family Planning Programme in the Central Budget for 1970-71.

Agricultural Wealth Tax

***30. SHRI B.K. DASCHOWDHURY : SHRI K. HALDER :**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered to drop wealth-tax as urged by the farmers ;

(b) whether Punjab Government had already challenged the imposition of wealth tax in the High Court; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). It is understood that the Government of Punjab have filed a writ petition before the Punjab and Haryana High Court at Chandigarh challenging the constitutional validity of the provisions in the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 relating to the

imposition of wealth-tax on agricultural assets. However, no notice or copy of the petition has so far been served on the Central Government. The details have, therefore, yet to be ascertained.

Appointment of foreign Consultant Firms by N.I.D.C. for Ore Projects

***35. SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT-AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation has issued a letter of intent to the National Industrial Development Corporation 'allowing' the latter to retain Nittetsu, a Japanese firm, as its consultant for the iron ore project at Bailadilla deposit No. 5;

(b) whether the question of 'allowing' does not arise because while giving its proposals to the N.M.D.C. the N.I.D.C. had not even mentioned Nittetsu;

(c) whether N.I.D.C. had instead, desired to have the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, as its consultant in the above proposal submitted to the N.M.D.C.; and

(d) the reasons for 'foisting' Nittetsu on the N.I.D.C. in preference to an indigenous consultancy firm' especially when it was clear that the record of Nittetsu was not satisfactory ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) to (d). The National Industrial Development Corporation had made three alternative offers to National Mineral Development Corporation for the designing, engineering and construction supervision of the ore handling plant for the Bailadilla No. 5 deposit. Each of these offers was in conjunction with a different consultant to assist them in the evolution of the process technology and the plant concept. It may be mentioned here that none of these offers was in association with the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, as they are equipment manufacturers. Subsequent to the submission by NIDC of these three

alternative offers, on a suggestion received from the Government through the NMDC to also explore the possibilities of associating with Nittetsu of Japan, the NIDC submitted a fourth offer. After examining all the offers received, the Government decided that NIDC be appointed as the prime Indian consultant for the project and that they be asked to further negotiate with Nittetsu Mining Consultants for engaging them as their associates. Government also desired that in case further negotiations with Nittetsu were unsuccessful, NIDC should associate itself with one other foreign collaborator originally proposed.

In pursuance of this decision, NIDC negotiated with Nittetsu of Japan and made a final offer to NMDC which was accepted and a letter of intent issued.

Authentic Hindi Version of Constitution

*36. SHRI J. N. HAZARIKA :
SHRI C. M. KEDARIA :

Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been finally decided that entirely a new text or the existing Hindi version of the Constitution with certain changes is to be prepared or adopted for making it an authentic Hindi text; and

(b) if so, the steps that are being taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYYA) : (a) and (b). The question of the preparation of an authorised translation of the Constitution in Hindi is under active consideration. The question whether any modifications and if so what modifications, would be required to be made in the Hindi translation of the Constitution of India certified by and published under the authority of the President of the Constituent Assembly, is also under examination.

Report of E.C.A.F.E. Steel Survey Mission

*37. SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR :
SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :
SHRI UMANATH :
SHRI ISHAQ SAMBHALI :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether an E.C.A.F.E. Steel Survey Mission which visited India last December has estimated that the demand for steel in India will rise more than three-fold over the next fifteen years, i.e., from 6.9 million tonnes of crude steel in 1970 to 22.1 million tonnes in 1985;

(b) whether the Mission has said that the assistance of the world financial institutions will be required to carry through an expansion programme of this magnitude;

(c) whether the Mission has suggested the setting up of export-oriented coastal Steel plants in India;

(d) whether Government have examined the report of the Mission; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI B.R. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The interim report received so far, does not contain this recommendation.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government have already taken a decision to locate one of the three new steel plants in the coastal region of Vishakhapatnam.

Manufacture of Vespa and Lambretta Scooters in Public Sector

*38. SHRI MUMAMMAD SHERIFF :
SHRI E.K. NAYANAR :
SHRI B.K. MODAK :