

and leather products. Finished leather is the main item of export at present, followed by footwear components and footwear. A further shift in policy thrust from finished leather to value added leather manufactures is envisaged during the Seventh Plan so as to generate additional employment opportunities and to realize higher foreign exchange from the available raw material resources. The ultimate objective is to make footwear the single most important item of export in the leather sector. During the terminal year of the Sixth Five Year Plan, as against a target of Rs. 495 crores, the leather industry has exported leather and leather goods valued at Rs. 583.7 crores. However, the target of export for 1985-86 has been fixed at Rs. 605.0 crores. The target for export of leather and leather goods have also been fixed at Rs. 1070 crores for the Seventh Five Year Plan.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, actually Tamil Nadu is earning foreign exchange for the country through the export of leather goods and leather finished goods like shoe-uppers, ect. Moreover, Sir, there are so many leather units in Ambur and Vaniyambadi in Tamil Nadu, because the climatic condition is more suitable, congenial for the leather industries in those places. In this connection I may bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that the Office of the Chairman, Leather Export Promotion Council is situated in Delhi. But the major exports of leather goods are taking place from Tamil Nadu to other foreign countries. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is not possible to shift the office of the Chairman, Leather Export Promotion Council, from Delhi to Tamil Nadu so that export of leather goods can be augmented ?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : As for export is concerned, location of the office of Export Promotion Council is not the point. Wherever the office is located, the export will not be affected.

Issue of Bonds by REC

*131. **SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has decided to issue bonds of

Rs. 65 crores for public subscription to support its rural electrification programme during 1986-87; and

(b) If so, the details regarding the scheme of bonds and the benefits likely to be achieved as well as the number of villages that are going to be electrified under this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : Yes, Sir. Rural Electrification Corporation proposes to issue bonds for Rs. 65 crores for public subscription in order to augment its financial resources for funding its programme for 1985-86.

(b) These bonds will be of two types, cumulative and non-cumulative for the purpose of payment of interest, and will carry interest @ 14 per cent per annum. The bonds will be in the denominations for Rs. 1000/- and Rs. 10,000/- each. These will be redeemed at par after expiry of 7 years from the date of allotment. The bonds will be secured by a charge on the current assets of the Corporation. The subscription list will open on 3rd March, 1986 and will close on 25th March, 1986 or earlier but not before 10th March, 1986.

The Annual Plan of the Corporation for 1985-86 envisages electrification of 17,799 villages and energisation of 3,71,880 pump sets in various States. An outlay of Rs. 379 crores was provided for this purpose.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Sir, most of the States in the country are facing acute shortage of power supply, specially since 1985, Orissa is facing acute power shortage and all the lift irrigation points and rural industries are also facing power shortage. Due to shortage of power, lift irrigation points are not working and industries are to be closed down. May I know whether the Government of India is aware of the power shortage in Orissa and whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has any short term programme to augment the power in Orissa by getting it from the national grid immediately so that the various lift irrigation projects and industries of Orissa are saved from the power shortage ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : The Rural Electrification Corporation does not generate

power, nor does it get power. It assists the States to utilise the power available for reaching it to the villages and electrifying those villages. We give financial assistance and other assistance to the States. In fact, in the entire Plan our main emphasis has been to help the tribal and Harijan Bastis to energise and in that there has been good performance. As far as the Orissa State is concerned, there is, as I said earlier, general shortage on account of low PLF. That needs to be improved. Whatever assistance we can give from States like Madhya Pradesh etc., we are trying to give.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : I would like to know whether the State of Orissa has furnished any proposal to the Government of India for financial assistance from this scheme of bonds.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : There is no specific proposal, but we are assisting all States for their rural electrification programme.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : The tariff rates on agricultural pumpsets are not uniform throughout India. They vary from State to State. Will the Government of India think of bringing about some uniformity in the agricultural pumpsets energised by the Rural Electrification Corporation ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : There is no such proposal. If such a proposal comes from all the States for a unified tariff, it would be considered. It is a suggestion.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : After the target of Rs. 65 crores by issue of bonds for public subscription has been reached, would you consider giving assistance to the various States according to the proportion of the investment made by the people in those States ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I do not think, we can give assistance in proportion to how much money has come from all the States. It goes to the total kitty of the Corporation and we will give assistance according to the requirements of the States.

Setting up of Petro-Chemical Complex at Haldia

***132. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) The present position of issuing industrial licences for setting up of a petro-chemical complex at Haldia, West Bengal; and

(b) the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). A Letter of Intent has already been issued to the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. for the setting up of a petro-chemicals complex at Haldia. The stage for conversion of Letter of Intent into an industrial Licence has not yet been reached.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Government of India has received a request to transfer the Letter of Intent to a new company, namely the Haldia Petro-Chemical Ltd. If so, what is the present position and what are the reasons for delay to transfer the Letter of Intent ?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Since the year 1976 or 1977, when the first letter of intent was issued to the WBIDC, a number of requests by way of amendments and changes have come from the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation. This question regarding the changing of the name of the company was received sometime in last year and the matter is under consideration. We should be able to give reply to it within the next 15 to 20 days.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Haldia Petro-Chemicals Limited has requested the Ministry of Company Affairs for the clearance and exemption from the provisions of Section 22 of the MRTP Act and the Ministry of Chemicals for the change of product mix. Copies of the communication were sent to the Ministry of Industry. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether his Ministry has taken up these urgent matters with the