

[10 March, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Import Duty was increased to 60% with effect from 9.2.2000 to discourage imports of sugar which were having an adverse effect on the domestic industry and keeping in view the comfortable domestic production and stocks and the falling trend in the international prices of sugar. It will also enable the sugar mills to pay the cane price dues of farmers in time.

Bamboo plantation project in Assam

*222. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for taking up bamboo plantation project in rural and tribal areas of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise and area-wise;

(c) the total outlays allocated for the same alongwith the present status of implementation of the proposal; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons for not taking steps in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):(a)Yes,Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Assam has been asked to send a project proposal for bamboo plantation for a total cost of Rs. 2.00 crores. The project is awaited.

(d) Does not arise.

Assistance to Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology

*224. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have so far sanctioned any assistance for procuring equipments or medicines for poor patients or for construction of hospital building to Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would take steps to sanction assistance to the above hospital to provide better and free service to poor patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) This Ministry has recognised Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore, as Regional Cancer Centre and an annual grant of Rs. 75.00 lakhs is provided to the Institute for purchase of equipments.

During the current financial year, an amount of Rs. 1.00 crore besides the annual grant-in-aid, has been provided to the Institute for purchase of Brachy-therapy Machine.

Procurement of cranes by Railways

*225. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways had procured 12 numbers of 140T cranes from Messrs Jessop and Company Ltd., a CPSU located in Culcutta, between 1998 and 1991;

(b) whether Jessop had technical collaboration with NEI, UK for over a decade;

(c) if so, whether Railways had decided to import 12 numbers of 140T cranes at a cost of Rs. 132 crores in 1997-98 without floating any enquiry to Jessop and other indigenous manufacturers; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Contract on M/s Jessop was placed in December, 1985 for supply of 12 Nos. cranes and supplies could be completed only upto November, 1991 after repeated extension of delivery period.

(b) Yes, Sir. M/s Jessop had a technical tie up with M/s NEI UK prior to 1991. However, their U.K. collaborator i.e. M/s. NEI had withdrawn their tie up, support for supply of materials, spares and services during 1991. Subsequent to 1991, M/s Jessop were not able to provide even technical support to Railways in connection with service and spares calls in respect of the cranes earlier supplied by them.