

[27 July, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) whether the Planning Commission has finalized terms and conditions for linking the release of funds with the performance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the States signing memorandum of understanding with the Central Government to enforce fiscal discipline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) Performance criteria are already built into the Gadgil Formula for allocation of Normal Central Assistance to States since they take into account the performance of States in fiscal management, tax effort, progress in national objectives *i.e.* population control, elimination of illiteracy, on-time completion of Externally-aided Projects (EAPs) and Land Reforms. The performance of States in the realisation of plan targets is also monitored through official level discussions with the States, visits of the Commission to the States, and in discussions between Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chief Ministers of States. In addition, the release of Central Assistance to States for Plan projects/programmes are based on the Utilisation Certificates and Progress Reports.

(e) The States which have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) for Fiscal Reforms during 1999-2000 are: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh.

Employment policies

592. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia to look into the employment policies;

(b) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

(c) if so, what are its major findings and recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN

SHOURIE): (a) The Planning Commission set up a Task Force on Employment Opportunities under the Chairmanship of Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

(b) Yes Sir, the Task Force has submitted its report.

(c) A copy of Chapter 8 on Summary of Recommendations of the said Report is attached at Annexure [See Appendix 193, Annexure No. 8].

Central aid for Development of West Bengal

593. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI:

SHRI JIBON ROY:

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of West Bengal in a recent meeting with him has sought the Centre's co-operation in the development of the State;

(b) if so, the details of the decisions taken; and

(c) to what extent these decisions have been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Chief Minister, West Bengal, in a recent Meeting with the Prime Minister, on the 30th May, 2001 submitted a Memorandum. A statement showing the details of the issues raised and indicating their status of implementation, is enclosed.

Statement

Issues raised and status of Implementation

Issue	Present status
1. No. wagon orders have been released for 2000-2001 by Railways Ministry. Wagon industry, in public and private sectors, are in serious crisis. Railway budget for 2001-2002 provides for procurement of 23,000 Four Wheeler Units (FWUs). A drastic curtailment	Initially, certain checks had revealed use of the cheaper, mild steel in place of the Corten Steel, supplied by the Railways to the wagon manufacturers, as a free supply item. While the Tender case for wagons for 2001-02 was close to finalisation, similar use of mild steel in place of the specified Corten Steel by some more