

(a) what are the grounds on which the Planning Commission bases its optimistic estimate of export growth rate rising to 13.6 per cent;

(b) whether it is much lower than the Government's expectation; and

(c) if so, whether the deficit would be met by further borrowing from abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The estimate of export growth for the Eighth Plan is based partly on past experience and partly on the export growth required to keep the current account deficit at manageable levels.

(b) The Government expects exports to grow more or less as projected.

(c) Question does not arise.

Position of Tamil Nadu in Regard to Removal of Regional Imbalance

2630. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what was the position of Tamil Nadu in regard to removal of regional imbalances compared to other States at the end of Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to remove regional imbalances during Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) As per the quick estimates, at the end of the 7th Plan (1989-90), the per capita net State Domestic product of Tamil

Nadu at constant (1980-81) prices was slightly lower than the national average. In the 8th Plan, the growth strategies envisaged for various sectors and particularly for the employment, agriculture and industrial sectors aim at reducing regional imbalances.

The responsibility for development of a particular region rests primarily with the State Government concerned. In this, the Central Government helps the States, including Tamil Nadu, through the mechanism of transfer of resources under the modified formula, previously known as 'Gadgil formula', Special Area Programmes and devolution of non-plan resources by the Finance Commission.

Removal of regional imbalances is an essential objective of the planning process. However, implementation of this objective is tempered by certain inherent, historic and other characteristics of region such as differences in resource endowment, disparities in availability of infrastructural facilities, physiographic factors and geographical conditions.

The concept of Agro-climatic zone Planning

2631. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any progress in imbuing the concept of agro-climate zone planning in our planning system particularly in the matter of planning for rural development;

(b) if so, how long we have gone in this respect in case of the Eighth Five Year Plan and what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for not embarking on this aspect and by when it is likely to be made an integral part of our planning system?