

the priority sector. Advocates are eligible for inclusion as professional and self-employed persons under the priority sector. Advances to professional and self-employed persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and women are provided at lower rates of interest than others in the same category.

Modernisation of Steel Plants

1205. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU; Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state—

(a) what is the number of steel plants which have been modernised during the last Five Year Plan period and what are the details of proposal for commissioning of new plants during the current financial year; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to monitor the modernisation schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI); (a) While the modernisation plan in respect of any of the public sector integrated steel plants has not been completed during the VII Plan period, Tata Iron & Steel Co. completed Phase-II of its modernisation plan in 1989. No new plant has been nor is likely to be commissioned during the current financial year.

(b) A system of periodical monitoring of progress of implementation of modernisation schemes has been set up with regular monitoring at the plant level as well as in SAIL's Corporate Office. In addition, in the Government monthly monitoring in the Department of Steel and Ministry of Programme Implementation, besides the Quarterly review (by Steel & Mines Minister) is also undertaken.

Reconstitution of SAIL Board

1206. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU; Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to reconstitute the Board of Directors of SAIL for its structural reform; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI); (a) and (b) Government would consider reconstitution of Board of Directors of SAIL upon evolution of a specific proposal, details of which are yet to be worked out.

Appointment of Chairman of the Brahmaputra Board

1207. SHRI DAVID LEDGER; Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no full time Chairman in the Brahmaputra Board at present; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA); (a) and (b) The Secretary of the North Eastern Council has been appointed as Chairman of the Brahmaputra Board for administrative convenience.

Clearance of Dehang and Subansiri dam projects

1208. SHRI DAVID LEDGER; Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the recommendations of the Brahmaputra Board for construction of the Dehang and the Subansiri dams have been awaiting approval of the Central Government since 1986;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to implement these recommendations in the near future for control of floods in Assam;

(d) if so, when the construction work is likely to start;

(e) whether Brahmaputra Board has prepared any medium-term or short-term projects; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) Comments on the Dehang and Subansiri Projects prepared by the Brahmaputra Board have been communicated to the Board.

(c) There is no such proposal for the 8th Plan period.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) A report on the proposed Harang Project costing Rs. 4.90 crores for removal of drainage conjection in Karimganj district of Assam has been prepared.

Central Assistance for Development of Tourism in Assam

1209. SHRI DAVID LEDGER- Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state;

(a) what amount of Central assistance was given for the development of tourism in Assam during the years 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) whether Government propose to raised the quantum of Central assistance for the development of tourism in Assam in the coming year; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) For development of Tourism in Assam, from 1986-87 to date an amount of Rs. 48.83 lakhs has been sanctioned, out of which Rs. 42.40 lakhs have been released so far

(b) and (c) The Central assistance for the development of tourism in Assam would be based on the schemes proposed by the State Government,

their merits availability of funds and *inter-se* priorities.

Import of Vincristine and Vinblastine

1210. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI; SHRI ASHOK NATH VEPWA;

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Vincristine and Vinblastine, both in bulk and finished form are allowed for import under OGL as per the current Import Policy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has received representations to impose ban on the imports of these drugs and finished medicines, which are pending since last more than two years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these drugs and their formulations are produced in the country and production is more than five times the requirement of the country;

(d) what were the imports and exports of each during the last two years, year-wise upto the 28th February, 1990; and

(e) what steps have been taken to ban the imports of these products in order to save valuable foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (e) Import Policy for a drug is determined keeping in view all relevant factors, including its domestic demand, indigenous production, cost of production and the interests of users on the one hand and of producers on the other. The forthcoming new Import & Export Policy will be laid on the Table of the House on 30th March, 1990. It is, therefore, premature to disclose details about the policy regime for these items at this stage