

nical inputs towards the development of the country in priority areas.

(b) and (c) A sum of \$ 1,00,000 has been initially allotted from the UNDP IPF allocation for this year. There will be no direct counterpart contribution of the Government of India.

The cost of International travel of the Scientists/Engineers etc. invited, as well as their per diem at UN rates, during their stay in India, would be met out of UNDP funds allocated for the Project. Indian Missions in selected countries have been informed about the project and requested to forward particulars of interested scientists. An inter-departmental Committee has been set up to define procedures for selection, areas of priority and such other details relating to operation of the project.

Ways and means to achieve growth rate

602. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has prepared and submitted background papers outlining the ways and means to achieve a growth rate of at least 7 per cent during the 1980s;

(b) if so, what are the suggestions made by the Federation; and

(c) what decisions Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A summary of the suggestions made by the Federation is enclosed in the statement.

(c) The Government will give due consideration to these suggestions.

Statement

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1. A high level Joint Forum of Government and Business should be set

up to discuss and decide measures to which both should be totally committed.

2. The large number of legislations, controls and regulations, which have proliferated over the years, should be drastically reduced.

3. The cost of projects has gone up considerably on account of inflation. This has made fresh investment unattractive. The fiscal policy should be revised to compensate for this.

4. Depreciation for tax purposes should be linked to a machinery price index.

5. The tax system should be oriented toward encouraging savings by exempting all productive savings from taxation.

6. The terms on which the term lending institutions finance industry should be moderated.

7. The import of technology must be liberalised.

Central assistance to West Bengal

603. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central assistance as a proportion of West Bengal's outlay on annual State Plan is on the decline since 1976-77;

(b) whether there are indications that the proportion of Central assistance will register further decline in 1980-81;

(c) if so, what are the details;

(d) whether the State Government has given representation to the Centre on this issue; and

(e) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI):