

State Government to assess the deserving cases for allotment of plots. Other demands are under the State Government's consideration.

PENDING APPEALS BEFORE INCOME-TAX TRIBUNALS

723. DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :

Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the increase in the number of Income-tax Tribunal benches the appeals pending before these have continued to pile up in the last three years;

(b) what is the total number of appeals pending before the tribunals at present; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure speedy disposal of these appeals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI JAGANNATH RAO) : (a) Though more Benches of the Tribunal have been set up in the last three years, it has not been possible for the Tribunal to cope with the enormous increase in the institution of appeals.

(b) 78,846 as on 1-7-70.

(c) Various administrative measures are being taken from time to time to cope with the increased pendency in the Tribunal. More Benches of the Tribunal may be created as and when considered necessary.

REVIVAL OF SICK INDUSTRIES IN WEST BENGAL

724. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal have recently approached the Central Government for financial and other help for the revival of sick industries in that State; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL

DEVELOPMENT AND INTER-TRADE (SHRI M.R. KRISHNA) :

(a) Yes :

(b) The matter is under consideration in the various Ministries concerned.

TAMIL NADU ELECTRICITY BOARD

725. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHI-DEEN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board has requested the Central Government for the allotment of steel materials for its rural electrification programme;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the reasons for delay in supplying steel to the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board; and

(d) whether the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board will be allowed to import their requirements?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Due to resurgence of building activity all over the country and due to launching of crash programmes for rural electrification by many State Electricity Boards demands for certain categories of steel have increased. As such, it may not be possible to meet the entire requirements of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board immediately. To the extent possible, their emergent requirements will be met. Since all the materials asked for by them cannot be utilised all at once and the steel materials can be supplied in a phased manner, imports may not be necessary.

स्वराज्य ट्रेक्टर

726. श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा :

क्या औद्योगिक विकास तथा आन्तरिक व्यापार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) स्वराज्य ट्रेक्टर के उत्पादन के मार्ग में कौन-कौन सी कठिनाइयाँ अभी तक आ रही हैं ;