

CENTRAL SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD

*624. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 93 in the Rajya Sabha on 7th May, 1966 and state :

(a) whether any decision has since been taken by Government to give statutory status to the Central Social Welfare Board; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, what are the various proposals under Government's consideration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The alternative proposals under consideration are to give the Board the status of a Directorate with an Advisory Board, a statutory body or a registered society.

SOVIET AID TO INDIA

*626. SHRI N. R. M. SWAMY: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the new fields in which Soviet aid was sought for by the Planning Minister during his July trip to Moscow;

(b) whether it is a fact that Soviet Government have expressed the view that in some cases very inadequate and uneconomic use was being made of plants set up by the Soviet Union in India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI ASOKA MEHTA) : (a) The new fields in which Soviet aid was sought during these visits compared to the fields in which Soviet aid was received in the Third Plan were: production of non-ferrous metals, fisheries, technical advice on planning for scientific research and technical advice for long-term planning for an integrated machine building industry.

(b) and (c) Problems connected with the efficient and early utilisation of capacities in Soviet-aided projects, viz., heavy machine-building plant in Ranchi, and coal mining machinery plant in Durgapur were also discussed with the Soviet authorities. The Soviet authorities pointed out the urgency of solving certain basic problems connected with the organisation of material supplies to the plants, advance planning of manufacturing programme, training of personnel, creation of necessary conditions designed to improve labour productivity, and the strengthening of design organisation. Respective project authorities are looking into these matters.

ASSISTANCE FOR ORISSA

♦627. SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what sort of financial assistance was sought by the Orissa Government from the Central Government to meet the abnormal drought situation in the State this year; and

(b) what was the quantum of assistance sought and how much was paid?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The Government of Orissa have requested for *ad-hoc* grants, loans and advances at different times, the latest being a request for ways and means advances equal to the expenditure on account of the drought, estimated to be of the order of Rs. 12.50 crores during 1966-67. A total loan of Rs. 6 crores has been sanctioned so far in the current