

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of employees of the Central Excise Department will lose their jobs due to the introduction of a new scheme on administration of the excisable commodities under the titles of 'Audit Control on Assessment under special procedure';

(b) if so, the total number of employees likely to be affected thereby; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide them alternative jobs?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI) : (a) to (c) The details of the administrative setup and staff requirements arising out of the introduction of the new scheme are being worked out. It is, therefore, too early to say that a large number of Central Excise Department employees will be retrenched as a result of the new scheme or to formulate proposals in regard to their absorption in other Departments.

WORLD BANK LOANS

456. SHRI M. R. VENKATARAMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent statement of Mr. Cargil who is an officer of the World Bank to the effect that any loan to be given by the World Bank to India in future would only be for the private sector, particularly for fertilizers and other agricultural inputs; and

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

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI) : (a) and (b) The World Bank have not indicated to the Government that future loans from the Bank will be only for the private sector. However, since 1966, the World Bank has done, in the case of India, hard-term lending from the Bank proper to private sector industries, whereas to the Government sector it has lent through the International Development Association, the soft loan affiliate of the Bank.

PURCHASE OF FERTILISERS FROM ABROAD

457. SHRI M.R. VENKATARAMAN: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials who went to Canada and the United States of America to study the availability and range of prices of fertilisers in these countries have since submitted their report;

(b) if so, the details of the report;

(c) whether it is a fact that there were losses in the past due to purchase of fertilisers without a study of the market trends;

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, whether Government have investigated the matter;

(e) if so, what are the findings of the investigation; and

(f) the action taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR IQBAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement indicating the major recommendations made by the Team is attached. (See below).

(c) No, Sir. Fertilizers are imported against AID from the U. S. A. by floating tenders which are given wide publicity.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

STATEMENT

1. Market Intelligence.—A continuous contact with production, consumption and exports etc. should be maintained. For this purpose I.S.M., Washington/London and our Embassies in Ottawa and Tokyo be asked to furnish reports on a regular basis.

2. Timing and Suitable Lots for Floating Tenders.—The tenders may normally be floated for delivery periods not exceeding 2 to 3 months. Shipment should be restricted to the minimum quantity during the domestic seasons in U. S. A./Canada and a minimum 3 months lead should be given for the commencement of delivery.

3. Terms and Conditions.—Terms and conditions of tender should not be subject to frequent changes and specifications for different types of fertilizers too, should be approved on long-term basis.

Efforts should be made to evolve ways and means for obtaining Urea in bulk, as the bagging costs are considerably high. Till then bagging specifications should be standardised, as changing of specifications frequently leads to increase in the price.

4. Freight Rates and Loading I Unloading Facilities.—The question of mechanisation of discharge at the Indian Ports be pursued at a high level with a view to increasing the discharge rate, so that valuable foreign exchange is saved in terms of bagging cost and freight.

5. Quotations direct from Manufacturers.—Although a number of major producers of fertilisers have realised that it would be to their advantage to quote directly instead of through brokers, freedom to quote through brokers may not be eliminated altogether, as that would be cutting out a number of smaller producers of fertilizers who might be introducing a greater element of competition in the tenders.

6. Long Term Contracts.—The possibilities of entering into long-term contracts for the purchase of fertilizers should be further examined in consultation with US AID.

इदिककी हाइडल संयंत्र में बिजली की प्रमुख लाइन का बन्द होना

458. श्री निरंजन वर्मा : क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) कुछ शरारती व्यक्तियों द्वारा इदिककी हाइडल संयंत्र में बिजली की प्रमुख लाइन बन्द कर देने से कितनी हानि हुई है;

(ख) क्या उन शरारती व्यक्तियों को पकड़ लिया गया है; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो क्या उनका हाल के नक्सलवादी आन्दोलन के लिये जिम्मेदार व्यक्तियों से कोई सम्बन्ध था ?

CLOSURE OF MAIN POWER LINE IN IDIKKI HYDEL PLANT

458. SHRI NIRANJAN VARMA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of loss suffered as a result of the closure of the main power line of the Idikki Hydel Plant by some miscreants;

(b) whether the miscreants have been arrested; and

(c) if so, whether the miscreants had any connections with the persons responsible for the recent Naxalbari agitation?]

सिंचाई तथा विद्युत् मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (प्रोफेसर सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : (क) केरल राज्य बिजली बोर्ड को बिजली की प्रमुख लाइन के बन्द हो जाने से कितनी हानि हुई, इस का अभी मूल्यांकन नहीं किया गया है।

(ख) सूचना मिली है कि पुलिस ने केस रजिस्टर कर लिया है। बिजली की लाइनों को छेड़ने के सम्बन्ध में सही सही कितने व्यक्ति पकड़े गए इस बारे में केरल राज्य बिजली बोर्ड को, उन से प्राप्त सूचनानुसार, कुछ पता नहीं है।

(ग) यह हड़ताल केरल राज्य बिजली बोर्ड मजदूर संघ द्वारा कराई गई थी जो कि एक पंजीकृत ट्रेड यूनियन है। परन्तु केरल राज्य बिजली बोर्ड के अधिकारियों को इस यूनियन के राजनैतिक सम्बन्धों का कोई ज्ञान नहीं है।

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHVAR PRASAD) (a) The loss sustained by the Kerala State Electricity Board on account of the closure of the main power line has not been assessed as yet.

(b) It is reported that the police have registered a case. The exact number of persons arrested in connection with the tampering of the power lines is not known to the Kerala State Electricity Board which has furnished the information.

(c) The strike was organised by the Kerala State Electricity Board Workers' Association which is a registered Trade Union. Its political affiliations are however not known to the Kerala State Electricity Board authorities.]

INDIAN DOCTORS IN U.S.A.

459. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian doctors holding M.B.B.S. or higher qualifications who went to the U. S. A. on exchange visitors visa during the last five years, year-wise;