

Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in August, 1994, in which the Department of Wastelands Development urged the corporate sector to participate in the development of nonforest wastelands.

(b) At these Workshops, it was made clear to the corporate sector that land is a subject dealt by the State Governments and subject to the policies and legislations of respective State Governments. The Department of Wastelands Development would not be in a position to provide any land to the corporate sector for development. However, it was brought to the notice of the Workshop that the Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka have formulated some schemes in which non-forest wastelands can be given to the corporate sector on long lease.

(c) The Department of Wastelands Development has been receiving suggestions from the corporate sector including PHD Rural Development Foundation for development of non-forest wastelands.

(d) and (e). In discussions with the corporate sector a suggestion was made that because of the refractory nature of soils, poor vegetative cover and the long gestation period in developing these wastelands, funds should be made available at concessional rates. Accordingly, a scheme entitled "Investment Promotional Scheme" was launched by the Department of Wastelands Development during the current year after extensive discussions with the corporate sector, financial institutions and other Government Departments. Under the Scheme, 25 per cent of the project cost or Rs. 25 lakhs, whichever is less, is available to the corporate sector in case, they take up development of non-forest wastelands. The Department has decided to set up a Coördination Cell at the Central level in the first instance. As the number of projects sponsored by the corporate sector increase a Coordination Cell can be set up at the State level also. The Department of Wastelands Development has identified a total Department in each State Government who would provide information regarding availability of wastelands to the corporate sector.

(f) The suggestion relating to land ceiling limit, leasing/allotment of land to the corporate sector by the State Government does not fall under the purview of Department of Wastelands Development. The corporate sector would need to initiate a dialogue for land with the individual farmers within the current land legislation in a particular State or with the State Government. Similarly, the provision of water and power facilities will depend upon the local conditions, existing hydrological aspects and power infrastructure. This subject is also dealt at the State Government level. The suggestion of fiscal incentives and tax benefit to the corporate sector cannot be complemented because of lack of details about the quantum of tax exemption, the different categories of equipment/machinery and specific inputs required are awaited from the PHD Rural Development Foundation.

Land Ceiling Act

2302. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have taken decision to make amendments to the Land Ceiling Act exempting firms to raise Agricultural Products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the same exemption is also proposed to be extended to farmers, who wish to raise the Agricultural products for export purposes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL) : (a) No State Government has so far made any amendments to their existing land ceiling Acts exempting firms to raise agricultural products.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal to exempt the farmers from the existing land ceiling laws to raise the agricultural products for export purpose.

Negotiations for Electricity Generation

2303. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Nepalese firm and a firm from Gujarat are negotiating with Kanpur Development Authority for acquiring land and garbage for preparing coal and generating electricity; and

(b) if so, the further developments made in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not rise.

Medical Colleges

2304. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Medical Colleges in each State at present;

(b) their total admission/output for the the academic year 1993-94;

(c) whether all these colleges are recognised by the Medical Council of India; and