

(a) the names of the Central projects in different States for which allocation of funds was made during Sixth Plan; State-wise;

(b) whether the entire funds were utilised; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Pay Fixation for Re-Employed Pensioners**

480. SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent order of Government regarding fixation of pay of re-employed pensioners switching over to new scales on 1 January, 1986 has in adverse effect on their emoluments;

(b) if so, steps proposed in this regard; and

(c) whether the re-employed pensioners opting to come over to new pay scale on 1 January, 1986 had to refund to Government the arrears of pay and allowances due to the stipulation in Government orders that pension, pension equivalent gratuity and pay should not exceed the maximum of last pay drawn?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI) : (a) and (b). No. Sir. As per extant orders, where the existing emoluments calculated in accordance with the Rules exceed the revised emoluments after pay fixation in the revised scale of pay in the case of any Government servant, including re-employed pensioner, the difference shall be allowed as personal pay to be absorbed in future increases in pay.

(c) This should not arise as there is no such stipulation when the pay of the re-employed pensioner is re-fixed on his opting to come over to the revised pay scale.

#### **Establishment of separate wasteland development Board**

481. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA  
NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up separate wasteland development board for each State Capital and also for the Union Territory of Delhi;

(b) whether such wasteland development boards are going to be set up of during 1987-88;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) All State/UT Governments had been advised to constitute Nodal Agencies for wastelands development programmes, after the first meeting of the National Land Use and Wastelands Development Council in February, 1986.

(b) to (d). Many State/UTs have taken action on NWDB's recommendations and set up a Board/Committee. Others have assigned the responsibility of wastelands development to existing bodies like the State Land Use Board, State Planning Commission, etc. The Union Territory of Delhi has recently set up such an agency.

#### **Decline in Foreign Exchange Reserves**

482. SHRI P.R.S.VENKATESAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign exchange reserves have declined during the first quarter of 1987-88;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and

(c) measures taken, to arrest the decline?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b). The foreign exchange reserves (excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights) which stood at Rs. 7645.17 crores on 31.3.87 declined to Rs. 7276.44 crores on the 30th June, 1987. The Balance of Payments data, with the details of the individual factors affecting movements in foreign exchange assets during this period, are not yet available.

(c) The level of reserves is continuously kept under review with a view to ensuring that the country's commitments with regard to debt service and requirement of goods and services are met.

#### Forest Cover In Kerala

483. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of forests being added every year in Kerala; and

(b) the specific programme being implemented in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS: (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) No survey has been undertaken to assess the percentage of forests being added every year in Kerala.

(b) Apart from State Sector Schemes of afforestation, a Centrally sponsored scheme namely, "Rural Fuelwood Plantation and afforestation of Eco-Sensitive Non-Himalayan Areas" is being implemented in the State. In addition, Social forestry schemes are

taken up under the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP).

#### Demand for Hike In Foreign Equity Participation

484. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand for a blanket hike in the level of foreign equity participation by foreign companies to enable them to qualify as Indian; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) and (b). There has been a demand in some Forums for raising the current 40% limit for foreign equity participation. In this regard Government Policy towards foreign investment continues to be selective and this was reiterated in the Technology Policy Statement of 1983. Under this policy, our preference is for minority foreign participation not exceeding 40%. However, this policy is flexible and higher foreign equity participation can be permitted in high-technology projects and where the project is highly Export-Oriented.

#### Writing off of Loans

485. DR.G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Eighth Finance Commission had recommended writing off of loans amounting to over Rs. 400 crores in respect of certain State Governments where these loans could not be recovered from the borrowers belonging to weaker sections of society;

(b) whether Eighth Finance Commission had also recommended rescheduling of several loans on the lines of similar rescheduling by World Bank and if so, details thereof; and