

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) to (c). The matter has been examined by the Tax Research Unit in the Ministry of Finance. The United Kingdom has adopted this measure because of an overall shortage of labour and the need to encourage the diversion of labour to priority sectors. The device would not appear to be useful under Indian conditions, as the problem in this country is of eliminating unemployment and under-employment.

Unit Trust

512. **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:**
Shri P. C. Boroohah:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust has devised a re-investment plan to popularise saving and investment habit among the people; and

(b) if so, the broad features of the plan and the likely benefits to accrue from it?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) Yes.

(b) The Re-investment Plan provides an automatic investment facility to the existing unit holders whereby they can reinvest the income accruing to them on their existing holdings in the further acquisition of units at the par value of Rs. 10/- per unit. The plan affords the unit holders the facility of building up their capital over a period of years.

Supply of Water in Rural Areas of Rajasthan

514. **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have slashed their allocation for rural water supply schemes for Rajasthan this year; and

(b) if so, the figures for the last three years including the current year and the reasons for reducing the allocation?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) No.

The State Government had suggested a provision of Rs. 40.00 lakhs in their Annual Plan for 1966-67 for Rural Water Supply Schemes and the same was accepted by the Planning Commission. However, the State Government have made a provision of Rs. 30.00 lakhs only in their current budget for the purpose. Their request for additional allocation during the current financial year for their Rural Water Supply Schemes is under consideration.

(b) During 1964-65 there was a budget provision of Rs. 20 lakhs for rural water supply schemes in Rajasthan. Subsequently the outlay was increased to Rs. 88 lakhs in view of the heavy workload to be completed. Similarly during 1965-66, against a budget provision of Rs. 40 lakhs for rural water supply schemes of Rajasthan, later on the outlay was increased to Rs. 66 lakhs.

The National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme is a Centrally aided scheme for which necessary provision has to be made in the State Plan. It is primarily for the State Governments to make suitable provision for rural water supply schemes in their plans, the Central assistance is admissible on the pattern of 50 per cent grants to the State Governments.

Power Shortage in Rajasthan

515. **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have taken any steps to give relief and assistance to Rajasthan particularly in view of the acute power famine afflicting Rajasthan; and

(b) whether Government propose to lay a statement on the Table giving details of the Central assistance and the prospects of improvement?

The Minister for Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed): (a) and (b). There has been acute power shortage in Rajasthan during the last two years. The following steps were taken to mitigate the power shortage in the State:—

- (i) A 132 KV single circuit transmission line from Ratanagarh to Jaipur was constructed and energised in March 1965 to enable import of power from Bhakra-Nangal system to Jaipur-Ajmer area.
- (ii) Diesel generating sets aggregating 6.3 MV were procured and installed.
- (iii) Private licensees at Ajmer and Udaipur were asked to generate power from their local diesel stations which were closed down previously.
- (iv) One gas turbine set of 10 MW capacity was purchased from Mysore and installed at Kota in Rajasthan.

The power supply position in Rajasthan during 1966-67 is expected to improve as a result of:

- (i) possible increase in the inflow of water into Gandhi-sagar Reservoir;
- (ii) availability of Rajasthan share of power from the first unit (62.5 MW) of Satpura Thermal Station by about March, 1967.

As regards financial assistance, a loan of Rs. 50 lakhs was sanctioned by the Government of India towards meeting expenditure on the purchase and installation of the 10 MW Gas Turbine Set mentioned above.

Another proposal of the Government of Rajasthan for assistance to

the tune of Rs. 200 lakhs towards construction of transmission lines is under consideration.

Irrigation Scheme at Chaliyar

516. Shri Mohammed Koya: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to start any irrigation schemes in the Chaliyar river;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed): (a) and (b). The Government of Kerala have investigated the Bepore Puzha or Chaliyarpudha Irrigation scheme on Chaliyar river. The scheme envisages the construction of a barrage across the Chaliyar river in Arigode village and diversion of the waters through two canals on the left and right banks to benefit an area of about 14,000 acres in the basin. The scheme has other benefits like Navigation, Fish culture, recreation etc. The scheme is roughly estimated to cost Rs. 350 lakhs.

(c) The question does not arise.

Pollution of Chaliyar River

517. Shri Mohammed Koya: Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people living on both sides of the Chaliyar River in Kerala are suffering from various diseases because of the pollution of water in the river; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the health authorities to prevent the outbreak of epidemics in the area?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) No such complaints are reported to have been received by the Government of Kerala, though newspapers have written about it.