

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) A project titled "Indian Renewable Resources Development Project" (IRRDP), with World Bank assistance, is being implemented in the country by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).

(b) Agreements have been signed with donor agencies for the following IRRDP:

(i) Line of Credit from International Development Association (IDA) - US \$ 115 million; (ii) A Line of Credit from Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) - US \$ 15 million; (iii) Grant from Global Environment Facility (GEF) - US \$ 26 million; (iv) Grant from Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC) - US\$ 4 million;

Under the IRRDP, loan assistance is available for wind farm, small hydro and solar photovoltaic projects which can be set up anywhere in the country.

(c) There is no proposal to start any renewable energy project, with World Bank assistance, in Orissa.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Export of Sugar

71. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has approached the Indian Government to allow road route facility for its export of sugar to India;

(b) if so, when was the proposal made;

(c) the details of the proposal ; and

(d) the Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) The Government of Pakistan has approached the Government of India with a proposal to open the road route at Wagha/Attari checkpost for the export of sugar from Pakistan to India. The Pakistani proposal is under examination.

Pensionary Benefits

72. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have yet to revise the pension gratuity, commutation etc. for the pensioners as per recommendations made by the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps to be taken by the Government to ensure speedy revision of pensionary benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The Government have already issued orders for the revision of pension, gratuity, commutation etc. of the pensioners to the extent the recommendations of the Vth Central Pay Commission have been accepted by it.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Ground Water

73. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any step for improving the Ground Water level in different parts of the country in general and Karnataka in particular; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The steps taken by the Union Government to check the decline in ground water level in the country includes :

(i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies on recharge of ground water in some parts of Maharashtra, NCT of Delhi, Union Territory of Chandigarh and Gauribidnour and Mulbagal Taluk of Gulbarga District of Karnataka in which various types of ground water recharging structures were constructed which include recharge wells, conversion of village tanks into percolation tanks and watershed treatment measures.

(ii) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(iii) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union territories including Karnataka to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(iv) Circulation of a Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories including Karnataka to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

Cultivation of Sunflower

74. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :