

Plan. However, the Working Groups and the Steering Committees constituted for the purpose of Health and Family Welfare have suggested increase in allocation for health schemes and maternity services for rural areas during the 8th Five Year Plan.

#### **Clearance to Irrigation Projects in West Bengal**

139. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Irrigation Project in West Bengal awaiting Central clearance; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken for their early clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) 2 major project namely Subernarakha Barrage Project and Modernisation of Kangsabati Project.

(b) These projects have been techno-economically appraised and recommended to the Planning Commission subjects to the State Government obtaining the environmental clearance.

#### **Consumer Price Index**

140. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several Central Trade Union Organisations have complained that the price index does not reflect the increase in prices of various items properly;

(b) whether they have demanded several times for reconstitution of the price index;

(c) if so, the action taken so far; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to review the matter and the draw a time-bound programme for reconstitution of the price index?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b). Representations have been received from some Workers, Organisations pointing out the decline in the Consumer Price Index for industrial workers with base 1982=100, for the month of December, 1988 as compared to November, 1988, Representations have also been received from some Workers, Organisations demanding the withdrawal of the series with base 1982=100

(c) and (d). The series of Consumer Price Index with base 1960=100 was based on the results of the Family Living Survey conducted during 1958-59. With the passage of time, the Consumer Price Index based on this survey has become out of date. The new series with base 1982=100 which is based on the actual consumption expenditure pattern, as revealed by the Family Income & Expenditure Survey conducted during 1981-82, was introduced, effective from the month of October, 1988, after holding consultation at national and regional levels with the employers, employees and the State Governments. As such the question of review or reconstitution of the Consumer Price Index with base 1982=100 at this stage does not arise.

#### **Permission to Sick Mills to Sell Surplus Land in Bombay**

141. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any sick textile mills in Bombay have sought permission for selling their surplus land;