

11.26 hrs.

ANNEXURE

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Cultivated, Cultivable and Irrigated Area—1990-91
(Thousand Hectares)

[Translation]

Agricultural Land

+
*181. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
DR. ASIM BALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details to total cultivable, cultivated and irrigated areas of land at present, State-wise;

(b) whether there has been considerable decline in the cultivable land during the last three years;

(c) if so, the extent thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) the action plan formulated by the Government to increase the cultivable land in the country;

(e) the area estimated by the National Agriculture Commission to be brought under irrigation by 1996 and thereafter; and

(f) the time limit, if any, to bring the total cultivable land under irrigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (f). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). Total cultivated, cultivable and irrigated area of land during 1990-91 (Latest available) is given in the annexure.

The total cultivable area in the country during the three years period of 1987-88 to 1990-91 declined marginally from 184.73 million hectares to 184.35 million hectare which can be attributed to increase in area under non-agricultural uses.

(d) The Government is implementing various programmes to increase the cultivated area in the country through reclamation of culturable waste land and reducing the fallow land by extending irrigation facilities.

(e) As per perspective of irrigation development given by the National Commission on Agriculture, the gross irrigated area in the country was estimated as 77 million hectare for 1995 and 84 million hectare for the year 2000 A.D. However, the ultimate irrigation potential estimated by the National Commission on Agriculture is 110 million hectare.

(f) No time limit has been fixed to bring the total cultivable land under irrigation.

State/Union Territory	Cultivated Area	Cultivable Area	Net irrigated Area
Andhra Pradesh	13507	15926	4305
Arunachal Praesh	174	267	31
Assam	2794	3229	572
Bihar	9457	11129	3347
Goa	131	222	20
Gujarat	10328	12312	2493
Haryana	3744	3768	2599
Himachal Pradesh	628	816	99
Jammu & Kashmir	828	1045	298
Karnataka	11671	12891	2113
Kerala	2291	2447	333
Madhya Pradesh	20320	22825	4314
Maharashtra	18810	21001	2036
Manipur	140	164	65
Meghalaya	261	1074	46
Mizoram	248	584	8
Nagaland	308	42	59
Orissa	6423	8093	1934
Punjab	4300	4375	3910
Rajasthan	18191	25707	3904
Sikkim	99	114	16
Tamil Nadu	6843	8411	2373
Tripura	271	312	41
Uttar Pradesh	18383	20846	10542
West Bengal	5729	5932	1911
Andaman & Nicobar Island	38	75	—
Chandigarh	3	3	2
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	24	24	2
Daman & Diu	4	7	1
Delhi	50	70	38
Lakshadweep	3	3	—
Pondicherry	30	34	22
ALL INDIA	156041	184348	47434

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PAL SINGH: Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is a agricultural country and most of its population depends on agriculture. The hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that the cultivable area is decreasing and as a result thereof the production of food-grains is also decreasing. While deforestation is taking place at large scale, cultivable land should have increased. If cultivable area will go on decreasing we will have to resort to imports of the foodgrains. If feel that some sort of conspiracy is being hatched to decrease cultivable land and to pave way for the imports. If this trend continues many more such scams will take place as has taken place in the case of importing of sugar. The cultivable area should be increased while deforestation is taking place. Whether hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has enacted any law to check the upcoming of new cities and industrial areas to ensure check on further decline of agricultural land.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, As I have stated in the reply, the total cultivable area in the country during 1987-88 to 1990-91 declined from 184.73 million hectares to 184.35 million hectares which works out a decrease of 0.38 million hectare. I think this is mainly because some land has been transferred to urban areas. This figure is not so high. In this regard State Governments

have enacted their laws so that minimum cultivable land is transferred for other purposes.

SHRI RAM PAL SINGH: I wanted to know from the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture whether Government has enacted any law to check decline in cultivable land in the country. This is separate issue that state Governments have enacted their respective laws. My second supplementary question is that hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that in 1990-91 out of 184348 hectare land 47434 hectare land was brought under irrigation. About 25 per cent area is being irrigated. In the reply of second part of the question you have stated that by 1995, 77 million hectare land will be brought under an irrigation. But there is no mention about the steps being taken for this purpose. Will the hon'ble Minister state as to how 77 million hectare land will be brought under irrigation.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to tell to the hon'ble Member that irrigated area is continuously increasing since 1950 and 1951. It has increased from 20 million hectare to 47 million hectare. New schemes are being formulated new vistas are being opened. We will be able to achieve the target of 110 million hectare land by the year 2000 as per our new National Agriculture Policy. But whatever we have already achieved, if you see that ratio wise, that is also continuously increasing.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: What is a million.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Ten lakhs make one million. You can calculate on this basis... (Interruptions)

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are asking in Hindi. Hon'ble Minister please tell us in Hindi, What is a million—is it Arab, kharab, crore or lakh?

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask the question when your turn will come.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We will teach them calculations. Sir, through you, I would like to request to the House, which I have been making right from the beginning that discussion should be held on Agriculture policy so that some solution can be find out. During discussion you can express your views also. Seventy percent population of the country is looking towards in expectation, but nothing has been done so far in this regard.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: You should put an end to all these scams. The Government should function according to the rules and it should sack all the corrupt persons... (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: You eradicate corruption. Persons who indulged in the scams should be sacked by the Government... (Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Why are you getting so agitated. I have requested for a good thing. It will be much better if we can find out some solution... (Interruptions)

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: The senior Minister of

the Government wants a discussion on the agriculture policy. So we demand that the period of the House should be extended. The Government is not agree to it. We would like to request you, sir to impress upon the Government to extend the period of the House for discussing the agriculture policy... (Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I wanted to say that you have seen that the total irrigated area has increased from 20 million to 47 million hectares. Shri Vidyacharan Shukla is also sitting here. He is the Minister of water resources. The policy which has been formulated by him.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is going out of the record.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: According to him the programmes and projects which have been formulated and the figures relating to irrigation are on the higher side because they calculate on the basis of quantity of water release and the quantum of water for which project has been made. But as far the question how much land has been actually been irrigated. There is a slight difference. That is why he is saying 75 million, i.e. Rs. 7½ crore. But our figures are based on the figures which have been furnished by the Patwaris of the State Governments and there can not be any other accurate figures. We receive these figures in the span of 3 years. According to them we have 62 million i.e. 6½ crore. We will continue to make progress. In regard to the irrigation I would like to tell you that we are adopting new methods and arrangements are being made for releasing grants for dripping and fountain irrigation. We will provide 50 percent grants to the general farmers and 75 percent to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and OBCs. I think with this financial provision we would be able to bring much more area under irrigation than that is anticipated. That will give us benefit. Our production will also increase by 1½ times with the provision of double irrigation facility.

SHRI RAM PAL SINGH: Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, no specific reply has been given as yet, as to what measures have been taken to increase the irrigated area from 25 percent to 42 percent?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: There is nothing special in it. Either one crop or two crops are gathered. When irrigation increased, crop also increase two times otherwise we keep the land uncultivated. So I would like to tell you that in 1950-51, we left about 2 crore 30 lakh acres land uncultivated. Then we made it 17½. In 1990-91 it came down from 15 to 9. We have made progress. When we provide double irrigation facility we get double or multiple cropping. All this can be possible by irrigation only. If there is much more irrigation we can get two crops instead of one and at some places where farmers are more skilled, they do short term cropping and get three crops as well. They adopt multicroping pattern which gives them profit... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: They are saying that they are converting waste land into cultivable land.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This question is related to the agriculture Ministry and not to the Ministry of Water resources. Dr. Asim Bala.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Asim Bala, please.

(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Press the button for the mike...(Interruptions)

DR. ASIM BALA: Sir, mike is not working ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you speaking from your seat?

DR. ASIM BALA: Yes, Sir. It is my seat ... (Interruptions) I am pressing the button also. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may continue, please.

(Interruptions)

DR. ASIM BALA: How much land, that is distributed land, is coming under irrigation? How much surplus land that is given to landless agricultural workers is coming under irrigation? If he finds it difficult, I will ask a very simple question. What is Government's plan? Actually, in your statistics, it is stated that the irrigated area is very small in number. I would like to know, what is your perspective plan, period-wise? You have not supplied that information.

MR. SPEAKER: Perspective plan for what?

DR. ASIM BALA: For irrigation.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a question on irrigation. This is a question on agriculture.

DR. ASIM BALA: Sir, I am asking about irrigated land.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand this. If you want to ask as to how they are going to increase the cultivable land, I will allow you. But, if you want to know how irrigation will be increased, it has to go to the irrigation Ministry.

DR. ASIM BALA: Sir, I would also like to know as to how much is the production in unirrigated area per acre?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister may give the information because he wants some information!

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The information is that there is a difference between 'irrigated area' and 'unirrigated area'! There is always the difference.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has clearly been asked in parts (e) and (f) of this question:

[English]

"(e) the area estimated by the National Agriculture Commission to be brought under irrigation by 1996 and thereafter; and

(f) the time limit, if any, to bring the total cultivable land under irrigation."

[Translation]

I demand answer from the hon. Minister to my this question. As per data furnished by him out of the total cultivable land in the country even one-fourth part of the land is not irrigated. The Government has stated in its reply that it has not fixed any time limit thereof. I would like to ask the Government by when the entire cultivable land will be irrigated. In its reply, the Government has stated that it will be done by 2050. The Government could not bring one fourths of the total cultivable land under irrigation in 50 years, how can it bring by 2050? I would like to know whether in the light of the importance of irrigation in the new agriculture policy of the Government of India which enables production to increase two or three-fold, it will convene a meeting of State Chief Ministers and fix time-limit thereof. The measures taken so far have not yielded any success. I, therefore, want to know whether this august House would like to make any plan so that the entire cultivable land is brought under irrigation and production of food grains be increased in the country.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The National Commission on Agriculture has prepared a note. According to it a plan has been chalked out on the basis of surface and ground water. Area wise figures have been given therein. It reveals that in 1950-51 16 million hectares of land was covered under the surface water and 7 million hectares of land was covered under the ground water. Thus total 23 million hectares land was irrigated. Thereafter in 1990-91 41 million hectares land was covered under surface water and 28 million hectares land was covered under ground water and thus total 69 million hectares land was irrigated. It further states that by 2025 80 million hectares of land is likely to be covered under surface water and 40 million hectares of land is likely to be covered under ground water. Thus, we have reached upto to level of 33 per cent and not 25 per cent. In other words as per the estimated figures in 1995 the target of such land was 77 million hectares, but we reached the level of 67 million hectares only.

[English]

Irrigation potential created in 1992-93 has reached a level of 83.48 million hectares. Now, about the irrigation potential used, as per the Ministry of Water Resources, it is 75.12 million hectares. That is what it is.

[Translation]

Actually speaking, as I told you just now, that the quantity of water is not made available as per project. Our figures are based on the information supplied by the Patwaris which are sent to us by the State Governments. Those figures indicate the area of land brought under irrigation and the work actually being undertaken and whether it has doubled or tripled. According to that, it comes to 61 or 62 million hectares. As I have submitted, our aim is to increase the irrigation potential. We want to make the maximum use of the water available with us so as to maximise the production. So, we want to make progress in both the fields.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked that if the Government is willing to work, why

the work is not being completed. Would the hon. Minister convene a meeting of all State Chief Ministers and consult them?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The National Commission on Agriculture has taken all these points into consideration before chalking out the programme. We want to bring about progress in agriculture on this basis. I would like to tell you that the inclusion of sprinkler irrigation, drip irrigation are being included in the new policy which will bring boon to us. It will increase not only the irrigation capacity but also the fertility of land. It will make the land more fertile and this will continue further also. You can ask all the hon. Members from Rajasthan who will confirm that there are many such places in command areas under the Indira Gandhi canal where salinity has developed in the soil. I am afraid whether flood irrigation in the Narmada Sagar will also create similar situation. In this connection we have cautioned the Department of Irrigation and the Central Government also, and we have brought it to the knowledge of the hon. Prime Minister also. He also agrees that the irrigation work should be carried out properly so that there is increase in production, irrigation and the land also remains in proper condition.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, this also deals with irrigation. Probably, the Agriculture Minister is not aware and the Irrigation Minister is not here. That is why I am asking the Agriculture Minister to enquire whether it is true- I know it is true- that two important schemes from West Bengal have been referred to the Government and are now lying with the Finance Department.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no Madam.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Would the Agriculture Minister kindly talk to them and clear the schemes as quickly as possible? That will help our irrigation.

MR. SPEAKER: Not allowed.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I will try to help you.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Though he did not allow it, thank you for trying to help us.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, it puts me in a very awkward position.

DR. KARTIKESHWAR PATRA: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any assessment has been made as to how many hectares of land would be converted into cultivable land. If an assessment has been made, what steps are being taken or what directions have been given to the concerned States to make necessary arrangement for converting that land into cultivable land?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I think, Sir, I have already replied to that.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the reply given by the hon. Minister I am happy to note that the States like Punjab and Haryana were able to bring under cultivation almost 99 per cent of the cultivable area. But the States like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya

Pradesh still have to do. For example, in Andhra Pradesh, 24 hectares of land are yet to be brought under cultivation.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you, Sir, what special efforts are being made to help these States where lot more areas can be brought under cultivation, in view of the fact that the per capita availability of land is coming down to only 0.15 hectare by the end of this century. I would like to know how the Government of India is going to help these States. Through you, Sir, I would also like to know how the Government of India will help the States in achieving consolidation of holdings which was done in Uttar Pradesh but not in so many other States. I would like to have a concrete reply from the hon. Minister for Agriculture.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the baby of the States. The States have to come up. They have to help themselves. In Punjab, we had the whole consolidation of holdings in 1965. The same is the case in Haryana. There are so many places where the initiative has been taken by the States. The initiative is taken only by them. because this Department, as a whole belongs to the States. We are the catalyst. We will try to help the States in every way.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: I want to know whether there are any schemes?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Whatever steps we have envisaged, our help is always available to the States. I am also calling the Chief Ministers and other Ministers to come and have a discussion. We have called Eastern States Chief Ministers. They did not come. That is not our mistake. They did not want to take it. They must come and we must discuss and try to find out ways and means of how to go ahead.

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Sir, the lands nearby the big States and small towns have been brought under non-agricultural land for building purposes. Thousands of lakhs of acres of land have been already brought under the buildings and also the other sites. The fallow land is not being brought under the cultivation as we expected. We must go very fast to expedite our approach by special schemes. Is there any Master Plan by the Central Government to cater to the State Governments to bring all the fallow lands under cultivation and also to stop the non-agricultural land in the nearby cities where very fertile lands are going to be under cement junta?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, this is our policy that no good fertile land should be acquired. We try to do this otherwise. But wherever it is impossible to do that, the State Governments have to do that. I think in the last three years it was very minimal. You cannot stop growth, you cannot stop development and with that we have to go along. But I agree with him, whatever we can try to save we must save all the agricultural land.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Agriculture, Irrigation and Fertilizers are three different developments. As a result of it, we are referred to different Ministers for reply to our questions. The farmers are put in such a situation that when the issue in question is related to

agriculture, the hon. Ministers of Agriculture gives the reply, when the issue is related to irrigation we are referred to Shri Vidya Charan Shukla. Similarly, we are referred to someone else for getting answer to the question related to fertilizers. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the Government and National Commission on Agriculture have conducted survey on agriculture. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has proposed to provide canal facilities or install tube wells in the areas which do not have any canals. The Government should not keep itself busy in keeping an account of debit and credit only it should point out the percentage of land having no water facility or canals. What does the Government propose to do for that area? Would he like to request the hon. Minister of Irrigation to provide canals or install tube-wells there instantly?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: You are quite right. Thank you for commiserating with the Ministry of Agriculture. But I would like to discuss it with them and I want to arrange your discussion also with them. The more we can provide irrigation facility the more will it be good for our country.

SHRI. LAKSHMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the Government has chalked out scheme to turn fallow land into cultivable land. Due to lack of irrigation means, the land is uncultivable. I would like to know as to what kind of crops is proposed to be grown in such fallow land as it has inadequate irrigation means?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Crops are grown according to the variety of land or availability of irrigation means. Land having scant water is cultivated accordingly and land with plenty of water is cultivated intensively....
(Interruptions)

SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, both agriculture and farmers are inter-related. Both are complementary to each other. Today farmers are not well-off, so they are desperate and lukewarm. In order to create interest in farmers the price of the agriculture production is not raised in commensurate to the rise in agriculture cost, and the hike in the prices of fertilizers, seeds, electricity, water and insecticides. Whether the Government is formulating any valubased scheme keeping in view the shortage of all such inputs and their prices in comparison to the cost of agricultural products so that the farmers may be benefited.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this point has been answered several time in this House and I fully agree with what the hon'ble member is saying that farmers should get full prices of their products. The Prices of land, tractor, plough, fertilizers, pesticides and his own-earnings everything has been included in it and the prices are fixed on this proportion. But sometimes it pains....(Interruptions)

SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA: By and by you are completely doing away with the concept of subsidy which is going against the interest of the farmers. On the one hand you are giving them less facilities and on the other hand, you are doing away with the subsidy. We are unable to understand both these things....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very odd issue.

SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA: You are always interrupting us. Please speak smilingly.

MR. SPEAKER: What should I tell you. If I speak smilingly, you do not understand.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Whatever the hon'ble Members are say, I act according to that only and I need their assistance also in this regard. I fully agree whatever you are saying.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Nothing is done.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Let me talk to him; let me answer his question. Whatever you are saying I fully agree to that and I act according to that.. (Interruptions) Why you are interrupting me. You will never be satisfied.. (Interruptions) Had you ever done farming, then only you could have know these things. Only those who are doing agriculture can know what it is (Interruptions)

Only those who are indulged in this activity can know the reality.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing those Members to ask questions who are doing agriculture on papers only. I am allowing those who are actually doing it..

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR SPEAKER: Just reply to the first part in it.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: What all you have said, will be calculated and then the rate will be fixed in that proportion.. (Interruptions). The prices which have been given by the Government during the two years have never been given before. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: The hon. the Agriculture Minister has said that 50 per cent subsidy for deep irrigation will be given for the farmers and 75 per cent for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes farmers. I compliment the Government for the step that they have taken.

Taking into consideration the Indian Constitution, where the women are treated as weaker sections of the community consideration, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will extend the facility of 75 per cent subsidy to the women farmers as, according to the Constitution, they constitute the weaker sections of the community.

Sir, for bringing about Green Revolution in the country we compliment the scientists, the farmers and everybody else but we forget that women constitute more than 60 per cent of the agricultural labour force and the Green Revolution has been an outcome of their toil and effort also.

Though there are not many but there are women farmers who contribute to the agricultural production in the country. So, taking this fact into consideration we should treat them as weaker sections of the community and I

would like to know as to whether the Government would take a sympathetic view towards them would give 75 per cent subsidy to the women farmers also.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the simple question is: Are you going to be chivalrous to women?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, I sympathise with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Then say 'yes'.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I will give all the credit because she is right when she says that most of the farm labours in the villages are women and they work much harder than men. I compliment them. I will try to help them.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, I have an entirely different question to ask.

MR. SPEAKER: You cultivate the land on papers!

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister is very much vigilant about the agriculture policy and he is always concerned about the problems of the farmers. There are many areas in the country such as Bundelkhand in U.P., large adjoining areas of Madhya Pradesh and areas in U.P. contiguous to foothills of Nepal where irrigation facilities are not available and the farmers or the State Governments are unable to irrigate the land with their own resources due to which large part of land remains uncultivated causing problems to farmers. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he has identified such areas under the agriculture policy or whether the same have been identified by the Agriculture commission. If it is so, whether Government propose to formulate any special programme to assist the State Government in this regard?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: This relates to irrigation... (Interruptions) I agree with you that we should make efforts in this regard so that we could give them maximum assistance. (Interruptions) We are doing our level best in this regard.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is going to formulate a new National Agriculture Policy. Adivasis have been occupying the hilly areas of Rajasthan for the last 15—20 years. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether this land has been included in the records under the agriculture policy? If it has not been so, whether arrangements will be made including the same in the records?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The agriculture policy has not been formulated for any special group. It relates to all the aspects of agriculture and has already been formulated. Presently, we are discussing this policy in the House. The Cabinet has already given its approval...

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr Speaker, Sir I would like to submit that my question is at the second number in the list and I have prepared supplementary questions for that only.. (Interruptions)

DR. CHATTRAPAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through

you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that whether the Government will give subsidy to those farmers who want to irrigate their land but do not have any resources of their own for this purpose?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Of course, we have all along been discussing this matter only and I have been telling the House as to what we are doing in this direction.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Train Accidents

*182. DR. GUNVANT RAMBHAU SARODE:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of train accidents and derailments has increased substantially during the last four months;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise;

(c) the main causes of the accidents;

(d) the details of life and property lost in these accidents;

(e) the amount of compensation paid to the victims, and

(f) the concrete steps proposed to be taken to prevent such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: (a) and (b) The number of train accidents, including derailments, have marginally increased during the 4 months period, viz. August to November, 1994 as compared to corresponding period of 1993-94. The Railway-wise details of train accidents, including derailments, are as under:

STATEMENT

Railway	August-November, 1994		August-November, 1993	
	Total Accidents	Deraillments	Total Accidents	Deraillments
Central	23	19	19	15
Eastern	8	8	19	14
Northern	22	20	24	15
North Eastern	8	5	11	8
Northeast Frontier	21	21	12	11
Southern	24	12	17	14
South Central	21	19	18	17
South Eastern	30	27	31	30
Western	19	15	23	11
Total	176	146	174	135

However, the overall position of accidents and derailments in the first 8 months of the current financial year (April to Nov. '94) reflects an improvement of 4% and 1% respectively over the comparative period of 1993-94.