

**Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourer United Crash Programme for Rural Employment**

2366. SHRI RANA BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of small farmers, marginal farmers and agricultural labourers who have so far been found eligible for assistance under the Rs. 50 crores Crash Programme for Rural Employment ; and

(b) the short term, medium term and long term credit disbursed to small and marginal farmers under this scheme ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADYA) : (a) Assistance is provided to small farmers, marginal farmers and agricultural labourers only under the Central Sector Schemes of SFDA and MFALs. Crash Programme for Rural Employment is not specifically designed to render assistance to small and marginal farmers. Upto the end of February, 1972, 13.25 lakh small farmers, having holdings, generally between 2.5 and 7.5 acres have been identified as eligible for assistance under the SFDA projects. Similarly 6.95 lakh married farmers having holdings generally, below 2.5 acres and agricultural labourers who derive more than 50% of their income from agriculture, have been identified under MFAL projects. The identification is still in progress in most of the projects ; and

(b) Till the end of February, 1972 a sum of Rs. 16.84 crores as short-term loans, Rs. 2.03 crores as medium-term loans and Rs. 6.14 crores as long-term loans have been disbursed to small/marginal farmer and agricultural labourers in the SFDA/MFAL areas.

**Construction of Artificial Island in Eernakulam Backwaters and Super tanker Berth in that Island**

2367. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government intend to

construct an artificial island in the Eernakulam backwater and to construct a super tanker berth in that Island ;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme and the estimated expenditure involved ; and

(c) when the construction work is likely to be started and when it is expected to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :

(a) to (c). The construction of an Oil Dock at Cochin Port capable of handling deep-drafted oil tankers is included in the Fourth Five Year Plan programme of the Port. The question of selecting a suitable site for the establishment of the Oil Dock is still under consideration. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate at this stage the details relating to the features of the scheme, its capital cost and time of commencement and completion.

**Conversion of Cochin Bypass on National Highway Under Fourth Five Year Plan**

2368. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme for constructing Cochin bypass on the National Highway has been approved by the Centre as a Scheme under the Fourth Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, the main features regarding the Scheme and the estimated expenditure ; and

(c) whether the Centre has made some changes in the original Scheme for Cochin bypass, when the construction is likely to begin and when it is expected to be completed.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The scheme is provided in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

(b) The proposed bypass will be about