

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE):

(a) and (b). Distribution of foodgrains is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the measures taken to streamline the distribution of foodgrains through fair price shops include (a) strengthening the Public Distribution system; (b) channelisation of all Government stocks for issue through fair price shops; including Cooperative Stores; (c) foodgrains to be issued from fair price shops only to card holders; (d) surprise checking of fair price shops, Food cards and Establishment permits; (e) issues of foodgrains from fair price shops on weekly/fortnightly basis to sustain an even flow of distribution through these shops and also to prevent dissipation of stocks by some sections of consumers; (f) as a long term measure taking over of wholesale trade in wheat from the next Rabi marketing season followed by rice to ensure regular supplies of these grains to consumers at reasonable prices; and (g) consumer cooperatives in the urban areas and the marketing and service cooperatives in the rural areas to be utilised for retail distribution to the maximum extent.

**Sanction for Medium/Minor Irrigation Scheme in Drought Prone Areas Programme in Maharashtra**

1879. SHRI ANNASAHAB GOTK-HINDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medium/minor irrigation works and the total outlay sanctioned under the Drought Prone Area Programme, during this year, in the six districts selected in Maharashtra; and

(b) the names of such works and the respective outlays sanctioned for them in Sangli District?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a). 233

Minor irrigation Works at the estimated cost of Rs. 11 crores have been sanctioned in the selected districts of Maharashtra. An outlay of Rs. 538.33 lakhs have been sanctioned for the continuing and approved schemes during 1972-73.

(b) In Sangli district alone, 30 Minor Irrigation Works as shown in the statement laid on the Table of the House, have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 171.16 lakhs. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4383/73]. An outlay of Rs. 48.74 lakhs have been sanctioned for these schemes during the current financial year.

**Grant of Loans under the Low Income Group Housing Scheme for Orissa in Fourth Plan**

1880. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-GRAHI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount was provided in the Fourth Plan for grant of loans under the Low Income Group Housing Scheme for Orissa;

(b) if so, what was the amount provided for and how much has been spent by now; and

(c) the places where such houses have been constructed in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) and (b). The Low Income Group Housing Scheme is in the State Sector of the Plan. During the Fourth Plan period, Central financial assistance to the States, including Orissa, for all schemes in the State Sector, is given by the Ministry of Finance in the form of 'block loans' and 'block grants' without being tied to any specific programme of development. The State Governments, including Orissa, have complete freedom to regulate expenditure under any development