

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Some irrigation facilities are being provided in Andaman and Nicobar Islands through minor irrigation works during the last three years.

(b) and (c). Six schemes, envisaging hydro-power generation, irrigation and water supply benefits are at present under investigation. Details of these Schemes will be available after the investigations are completed and decision to implement them are taken.

An amount of Rs. 10 Lakhs has been provided in the Fifth Five Year Plan of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for minor irrigation programme comprising construction of wells, installation of pumpset, small lift irrigation schemes etc.

Requests from States for Additional Foodgrains

3019. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of State Governments have requested the Central Government for additional foodgrains allocation to tide over the existing shortages in their respective States; and

(b) if so, the action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demands of the State Governments/Union Territories for wheat and milo are being met in full. Consistent with the overall availability of rice in the Central Pool, maximum possible allotments of rice are also being made to the States/Union Territories to meet their reasonable requirements of the public distribution system.

इंजीनियरिंग कालेज तथा विश्वविद्यालय

3020. श्री रामजीलाल सुमन :

श्री अर्जुन सिंह भवोरिया :

क्या शिक्षा, समाज कल्याण और संस्कृति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में मान्यताप्राप्त इंजीनियरिंग कालेजों तथा विश्वविद्यालयों की संख्या पृथक्-पृथक् कितनी हैं और वे कहाँ-कहाँ हैं; और

(ख) आगामी शिक्षा वर्ष से सरकार का विचार कितने नये इंजीनियरिंग कालेज तथा विश्वविद्यालय खोलने का है और वे कहाँ कहाँ खोले जायेंगे ?

शिक्षा, समाज कल्याण और संस्कृति मंत्री (डा० प्रताप चन्द्र चन्दर) : (क) इंजीनियरी कालेजों तथा विश्वविद्यालयों के दो अलग-अलग विवरण सभा पटल पर रखे गए हैं। [ग्रन्थालय में रखा गया। देखिये संख्या एलटी-661/77]

(ख) शैक्षिक वर्ष 1977-78 के दौरान कोई नया इंजीनियरी कालेज अथवा विश्व-विद्यालय खोलने का कोई प्रस्ताव केन्द्रीय सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं है।

Subsidised Housing Scheme for Plantation Workers

3021. SHRI HAREN BHUMIJ: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts sanctioned by the Government of India to the State of Assam for loan and subsidy under Subsidised Housing Scheme for Plantation Workers for the financial years 1976-77 and 1977-78 respectively;

(b) the amounts utilised so far and the number of Plantation Workers who had been given loans and subsidy during the above financial years;

(c) what is the basis for giving such loan and subsidy under the Scheme; and

(d) the present position of the availability of funds?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) In 1976-77, a sum of Rs. 7.00 lakhs as loan and Rs. 8.00 lakhs as subsidy was sanctioned to the Government of Assam for the implementation of the Subsidised Housing Scheme for Plantation Workers. In addition, the Government of Assam had at their disposal, the unspent balance of Rs. 9.42 lakhs as loan and Rs. 16.02 lakhs as subsidy out of funds released in earlier years. As regards 1977-78, the State Governments have been requested to indicate their requirements of funds. Allocation of funds will depend on the programme of works and the requirements of funds during this years by the State Governments.

(b) A sum of Rs. 22.78 lakhs as loan and Rs. 25.02 lakhs as subsidy have been utilised by the Government of Assam during the year 1976-77. Upto 31-3-1977, the cumulative total of amounts utilised by the Government of Assam was Rs. 136.59 lakhs as loan and Rs. 77.17 lakhs as subsidy and sanction was given by the Government of Assam for construction of 8608 houses. Funds under the Scheme are given to the Plantation owners through the State Governments for construction of houses, and not directly to the Plantation Workers.

(c) To help the planters to meet their statutory obligation under the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, to provide rent-free accommodation to resident plantation workers, funds made available to them for construction of houses for their eligible workers to the extent of 87½ per cent (50 per cent as loan and 37½ per cent as subsidy) of the actual or audited cost of construction or the prescribed ceiling cost, whichever is the least.

(d) In the budget for 1977-78, a provision of Rs. 2.10 crores has been made for the implementation of this Scheme in the whole country.

Approach to World Bank for Financing the Dastur Plan

3022. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to approach the World Bank for financing 'the Dastur Plan' for generation of power and control of floods in the country;

(b) if so, the steps so far taken by Governments; and

(c) the reaction of the World Bank thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Dastur Plan is conceptual. There is no proposal for seeking assistance from the World Bank for the schemes envisaged in the Dastur Plan.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Reclamation of Alkaline Soil

3023. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) break-up of area of alkaline soil existing in different States and whether there has been an increase in its total area and if so, reasons thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to draw a scheme to reclaim such land and if so, its salient features; and

(c) whether Government are aware that excessive use of chemical fertilisers in agriculture cause a gradual rise in making the soil alkaline and steps proposed to check it?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) No detailed survey has been carried out, but it is