

systems and also Fibre-Optic systems in the Region.

Development of Minor Irrigation Resources

1870. SHRISOBHANADRAEESWARA RAO YADDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has sought to revive the minor irrigation development to effectively utilise the untapped minor irrigation resources;

(b) if so, the response of the Government in this regard; and

(c) whether adequate provision has been made to utilise the Jawahar Rozgar Yizana funds by the farmers to tap the minor surface and underground irrigation sources?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The Chairman, Committee on Agriculture and Social Welfare of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has made several suggestions to harness the balance untapped minor irrigation potential in the country. Already great stress is being given for accelerated development of minor irrigation potential. The Eighth Plan has adequately laid due emphasis for the development of potential through minor irrigation. Accordingly, an all time high target of creating an additional irrigation potential of 107 lakh hectares under minor irrigation has been kept in VIII Plan (1992-97), which has already been approved by National Development Council (NDC).

(c) 20 percent of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana funds are earmarked for its Sub-

scheme, Million Wells Scheme (MES). The scheme is meant for providing open irrigation wells free of cost to poor, small and marginal farmers belonging to Schedule Castes/Schedule Tribes and freed bonded labourers. Where wells are not feasible due to geological factors, amount allotted under MWS may be utilised for other schemes of minor irrigation, etc. During 1992-93 Rs. 511.24 crores have been allocated for implementation of MWS.

[*Translation*]

Students and Youths for AIR Programmes

1871. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage students and youths for the production of dramas for broadcast during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of these programmes; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c). All India Radio has a system of encouraging youth and students to produce plays for broadcast in the Yuva Vani Programmes. All India Radio also inducts aspiring youth as drama artists through drama auditions held periodical at various stations. It is proposed to continue this system during the Eighth Year Plan.