

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : (a) Hirakud, Salandi, Mahanadi Delta and Potteru Irrigation projects in Orissa have been included in the Centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme.

(b) Central assistance amounting to Rs. 687.03 lakhs has been released to Orissa Government from 1985-86 to 1987-88 during the VII Five Year Plan for execution of these projects.

(c) The information received so far from the State Government shows that an area of about 2.10 lakh hectares has been covered with field channels in these projects till December, 1987.

Adoption of Villages in Andhra Pradesh by Banks

10027. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure and criterion for the adoption of villages by banks ;

(b) the number of villages in Andhra Pradesh so adopted by banks during the last one year ;

(c) whether the number of villages adopted in Andhra Pradesh is for less than villages in other States, if so, the details thereof together with reasons therefor ; and

(d) the steps being taken to adopt more villages in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALBIRO) : (a) The village adoption scheme aims at concentrated and coordinated efforts to finance agriculturists in areas with significant agricultural potential and having preponderance of small farmers. The villages to be adopted are generally selected in consultation with the local governmental agencies and priority is given to those villages where cooperative

credit institutions have not made much headway to the desired extent.

(b) and (c) As at the end of December 1986 (latest available), the public sector banks had adopted 19,738 villages in the State of Andhra Pradesh. In terms of number of villages adopted, Andhra Pradesh ranks fourth among various States and Union Territories in the country.

(d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines, dated 14.3.1988, to the commercial banks and regional rural banks regarding the service area concept in relation to rural credit system in the country. Under this, each bank branch in the rural and semi-urban areas of the country, including Andhra Pradesh, will have a designated service area covering about 15 to 25 villages, and the branch would be primarily responsible for meeting the appropriate credit needs of its service area.

Pulichintala balancing reservoir scheme of Andhra Pradesh

10028. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has forwarded "Pulchintala Balancing Reservoir" scheme for clearance from the Central Water Commission ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the likely date by which this scheme will be cleared by Central Water Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The project costing Rs. 138.57 crores mainly aims to stabilise irrigation in the existing Krishna Delta. This, however, has been returned for further investigations.