

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Both Punjab and Haryana are facing power shortage in varying degrees.

(b) The present power shortage in Haryana and Punjab, is mainly due to low water level in the hydro reservoirs of Bhakra-Beas System, rise in the demand for power from agricultural sector, unsatisfactory performance of thermal stations in Haryana and difficulties in providing shares of these States in Central projects

(c) The inflows into Bhakra reservoir depend on snow melting and are expected to increase from May, 1985.

(d) Except for some States in the Southern Region like Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, the States in other Regions, are by and large facing power shortage of varying degrees.

(e) To minimise the problem of power shortage efforts are being made to accelerate the programme of commissioning new generating capacity, undertake renovation and modernisation of existing plants, improving coal supplies and training of engineers and operating personnel of the power stations. Long-term measures include taking up of more new projects in the coming Five Year Plan.

Energy Board

61. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Energy Board is proposed to be constituted to coordinate the activities of this vital sector; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof including the powers to be given to it ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). The Government had set up an "Advisory Board on Energy" in its Resolution No. 64/1/83-Cab. dated 21st March, 1983. The main functions of this Advisory Body are given in the statement attached.

Statement

The functions of Advisory Board on Energy are as under :—

- (i) continuously reviewing the energy situation in the country in the global context and proposing future energy options on an integrated and coordinated basis;
- (ii) formulating an integrated energy policy covering commercial and non-commercial sources of energy, and evolving operational arrangements for management of supply and demand in all sectors and monitoring their implementation keeping in view technology options in industry, transport etc. having regard to the intensity of energy use;
- (iii) periodically assessing the likely demand and availability of different forms of energy and suggesting appropriate arrangements to meet the country's energy needs on an optimal basis keeping in view the need to conserve our resources as well as the environment; and
- (iv) proposing pricing policies of all forms of energy, keeping in view their *inter se* availability, opportunity costs and conservation of energy.

Distress Sale of Paddy

62. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of paddy procurement has been fixed at Rs. 103 per quintal;

(b) whether paddy is being sold at distress rate of Rs. 85 per quintal due to non-purchase of the same by the procurement agency, Food Corporation of India;

(c) whether Government have considered the desirability of inducting at least three representatives from the agricultuer

commodity in the Agricultural Prices Commission from different parts of the country;

(d) whether paddy grown under the irrigated areas of Hirakud-Ayacut in Orissa is being sold at Rs. 85 per quintal by the farmers; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to rescue the farmers by purchasing the paddy through the Food Corporation of India ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Support prices for procurement of paddy for 1984-85 marketing season have been fixed as under :

Variety	Rs. per quintal
Common	137.00
Fine	141.00
Superfine	145.00

(b) The Government have made adequate arrangements for procurement of paddy and no such report of distress sale has been received.

(c) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

(d) and (e). The State Government have reported that there are no such reports of farmers selling Paddy at Rs. 85 per quintal. The State Government have reported that the Food Corporation of India and the Orissa State Cooperative Marketing Federation have been entrusted with procurement work in Orissa.

Irrigation Project in Command Areas

63. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen satellite photographs of irrigation project in command areas which show rising levels of salinity;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken about preventing loss of cultivable land due to rising levels of salinity; and

(c) whether there are any other known ill-effects of high levels on irrigation and water storage ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c). Some experiments have been carried out in pilot areas to delineate the waterlogged and saline areas by use of satellite photographs. The Government of India is seized of the problem caused by rising water table in irrigated, commands resulting in water-logging and increased salinity and has been impressing upon the State Governments to undertake preventive/corrective measures which include provision of adequate drainage at the project planning stage, conjunctive use of surface and ground water to control rise in water table, modernisation of existing irrigation systems including lining of canals in reaches of higher seepage, introduction of improved irrigation water management practices including warabandi to ensure equitable distribution of water and reduce water wastage, and construction of field channels to avoid wastage of water by field to field irrigation.

Excessive surface water application without proper drainage and inadequate ground water development results in water logging and soil salinity and alkalinity which affect the productivity of land. Water storage can also be a cause of spread of water borne diseases.

Non-Implementation of Hydel/Thermal Projects in States

64. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of hydel/thermal projects proposed by various State Governments are not being implemented;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of such projects and reasons for their non-implementation; and