

Potato Seed Centre at Thali, Tamil Nadu

4656. SHRI P. V. PERIASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start Potato Seed Centre at Thali in Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu to meet the requirements of Potato seeds;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) other main features of the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government of India to start Potato Seed Centre at Thali in Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c). The question do not arise.

Major/Medium Irrigation Schemes

4657. SHRI C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of completion of the spill over projects in respect of major/medium irrigation schemes, in India and Tamil Nadu;

(b) the progress of new major/medium irrigation schemes taken up during the present Plan period in India and Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the role played by the Monitoring Organisations at Project level, State level and Central level for accelerating execution of schemes?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Major and medium irrigation schemes with an ultimate irrigation potential of 14.6 million ha., including 1.35 lakh ha. from schemes in Tamil Nadu, spilled

over into the V Plan. From these schemes, irrigation potential of 8 million ha. has been created so far, which includes 1.12 lakh ha. from schemes in Tamil Nadu.

(b) New major and medium irrigation schemes taken up for execution during the current Plan have an ultimate irrigation potential of 4.3 million ha. of which potential of 0.1 million ha. has since been created. The ultimate irrigation potential of such schemes in Tamil Nadu is 20,000 ha. and irrigation benefits from them have not yet started accruing.

(c) The Monitoring Organisations collect, collate and analyse the information regarding physical, financial progress and programmes, and about the availability of funds, key construction material, plant and machinery etc. Through close monitoring, all concerned are kept apprised of the progress of various components of the selected projects and the bottlenecks, retarding their progress, if any, get removed immediately thereby accelerating the execution of the schemes.

Many of the States have however yet to set up Monitoring Units at State and Project levels.

Cost of Production of Paddy

4658. SHRI B. K. NAIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the average cost of production of one quintal of paddy during the past three years in Godavari Delta, Thanjavour, Palghat, Kuttavad (private cultivation) and Kayal lands under Government of Kerala; and

(b) whether Government encourage any scheme to help the cultivations in Kuttavad and lighten the burden of heavy cost?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The cost of cultivation studies organised through the Agricultural Universities etc. under the comprehen-