

Agricultural development held up due to inter-State River Disputes

4777. SHRI V. S. ELANCHEZHIAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a feeling of frustration in the people that inter-state river disputes are holding up agricultural development;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take immediate action for nationalising the use of river waters under an overall strategy in the interests of equitable development of all States; and

(c) the particulars of action contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Since the available funds for irrigation projects have been fully utilised during the plan periods, it could be said that inter-State river disputes have not held up agricultural development. Such disputes, however, have resulted in delaying the implementation of certain projects in the disputed basins thereby affecting the *inter-se* priorities in taking up the projects by the concerned States.

(b) and (c). It is increasingly felt that the Centre should play a more active role particularly regarding allocation and regulation of waters of inter-State rivers and more expeditious modalities of resolving differences among the States need to be evolved. This would call for legislation by Parliament. All these matters including appropriate institutional arrangements and new legislation are being vigorously studied by the Government.

Supply of electricity for domestic use

4779. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3061 on the 11-7-1977 regarding supply of electricity for domestic use and state:

(a) the reasons for delay in sanctioning the amount so far electricity for domestic use to the residents of Sultanpuri Resettlement Colony;

(b) what is the latest position in regard to financial arrangements; and

(c) by what time the residents of that Colony will have electric connections for domestic use?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) to (c). No proposal has been received from Delhi Administration on the financial arrangements yet. They have been asked to expedite

Setting up of Vidyasagar University at Midnapur

4780. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.G.C. referred again the issue of setting up of the proposed Vidyasagar University at Midnapur in West Bengal for further consideration of the Government of West Bengal and Calcutta University;

(b) if so, specific points of reference made to the above bodies;

(c) whether any time limit has set for eliciting their replies;