

Tilari Irrigation Project

3413. SHRI AMRUT KASAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu has approached the Central Government with a request to finance the Tilari Irrigation Project which is proposed to be a joint venture between Maharashtra State and Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to assist the said project with Central aid?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) report on the Tilari Irrigation Project has been received in the Central Water Commission from the Government of Maharashtra in February, 1977, and is at present under technical scrutiny in the Commission. No request for providing financial assistance for the project by the Centre has so far been received from the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu.

(b) Does not arise.

Review of Agriculture Policy

3414. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to review the agriculture policy to make it attractive for those who are out-side it and inspiring those who are in it; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). The Agricultural policy formulated by the Government accords primacy to agricultural development which implies that investment re-

quirements of agriculture are to be given the highest priority. The development of agriculture is being viewed in the wider context of rural development aimed at removal of poverty, enlargement of employment opportunities and dispersal of fruits of development among different regions and different sections of the people. The development programmes are being directed towards this end. A forward-looking and determined irrigation programme is being developed. In rainfed areas, dry-farming technology is being propagated and a large soil conservation and land development programme would be mounted. Efforts are being concentrated on augmenting the production of commodities in short supply particularly pulses, oilseeds and cotton. Inputs will be supplied at reasonable prices to the farmers and remunerative prices assured to them for their produce. Rural infrastructure such as roads, markets, drinking water supply, etc. would be strengthened. The land reforms programme would be pursued vigorously. Further, with a view to diversifying agricultural economy, much greater stress is being laid on animal husbandry, dairying, fisheries and forestry.

The policies and programmes for agricultural development will be reviewed in the light of the proposals to be made by the Working Groups which have been set up for the formulation of the next Plan.

Jersey Breeding Project at Sabarmati Goushala Farm at Bidaj

3415. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for establishing a large jersey breeding project at Sabarmati Ashram Goushala Farm at Bidaj; and

(b) if so, the details and progress thereof?