

for setting up a Water Research Centre and Consultancy Service for major irrigation projects in Iraq; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Indo-Iraq Joint Commission last met in November 1977. Recently, when the Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation visited Iraq in July 1978, various matters regarding Indo-Iraqi co-operation in the agriculture and irrigation sector were discussed with Iraqi authorities.

(b) Water and Power Development Consultancy Service(I) Ltd., a Government of India Undertakings under the administrative control of the Department of Irrigation, has undertaken consultancy contracts for the following projects:—

(i) Consultancy contract for the Water Research Centre at Baghdad signed in November 1975.

(ii) Consultancy contract for the Amarah Irrigation and Drainage Project signed in October 1977.

For construction of buildings for Water Research Centre at Baghdad, a competitive bid has been submitted by Engineering projects India Limited, a Government of India Undertaking under the administrative control of the Department of Industrial Development. Final decision in this regard has yet to be taken by the Iraqi authorities.

Dates of priority in Allotment of Government accommodation

4028. CHAUDHURY RAM GOPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is wide difference in the priority dates covered in (i) the general and other pools; (ii) among different types in the same pool; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken by Government to rectify it?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) and (b). This Ministry has no information about the priority dates covered in the pools maintained by other Ministeries. In the general pool, there is difference in the priority dates covered in different types of quarters. This difference in priority dates is due to the ratio between demand and availability in each type of quarter. Government has undertaken a crash programme to construct a large number of houses, on completion of which the position will improve.

Lower rate of interest on loans to Adivasis

4029. SHRI LAXMI NARAIN NAYAK:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

SHRI NIRMAL CHANDRA JAIN:

SHRI AGHAN SINGH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering measures for lowering the rates of interest on the loans being disbursed through cooperative organisations for the upliftment of Adivasis and their protection from exploitation; and

(b) whether it will be better to disburse all kinds of Government grants through cooperative organisations to strengthen these organisations and whether Government will lay down policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) With effect