

puri as the number of families of Central Government employees residing in this area is only about 250.

Flood Control Schemes in Punjab

3479. **Shri Daljit Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and extent of assistance given to the Punjab Government for the flood schemes during 1965-66 and 1966-67 so far; and

(b) the names of major schemes for which the assistance has been granted?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed):

(a) A sum of Rs. 322.73 lakhs was sanctioned as Central loan assistance to the Government of Punjab for flood control, drainage and anti-waterlogging schemes during 1965-66. The allocation for 1966-67 has not yet been decided. In the Annual Plan proposals, the State Government had made a provision for Rs. 100 lakhs.

(b) The loans are given for financing approved flood control, drainage and anti-waterlogging schemes included in the Plan as a whole, and not for any specific schemes.

Excise Duty on Straw Board

3481. **Shri Jashvant Mehta:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding removal of difference and anomaly between the excise duty on straw board produced by old mills and new mills;

(b) whether Government propose to give it a retrospective effect to the removal of this anomaly; and

(c) if so, when?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) Yes, Sir. The disparity in the rates of excise duty payable on strawboard by old mills and new mills, though not completely removed, has been considerably reduced.

(b) and (c). The changes take effect from 1st April, 1966 and will have no retrospective effect.

Expenditure by Ministries

3483. **Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that habit of excess expenditure over voted grants or charged appropriations is steadily growing in the various Ministries;

(b) if so, what has been the percentage Ministry-wise;

(c) whether the steps taken by the Ministry has not made any visible impact so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the effective measures which Government propose to take to ensure that these recurring causes leading to "excesses" are eliminated?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) No, Sir. The total excesses in each of the three years ending 1964-65 constituted only 0.48 per cent, 0.28 per cent, and 0.16 per cent respectively of the total Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations for the year, showing a progressive decrease. The details are as follows:

Year	Total Grants and Appropriations (Civil, Defence, & P & T & Railways)	Total excesses	Percentage of excesses.
	Rs. in crores	Rs. in crores	
1962-63	9507.84	45.19	0.48
1963-64	10902.69	30.16	0.28
1964-65	12350.65	19.95	0.16