

(b) whether this responsibility has been taken over by Union Government and the State Government in certain areas of Stage II; and

(c) whether Haryana and Punjab in their own areas have written off the costs of lines water courses from loans allowed to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Total liabilities in Indira Gandhi Nehar Project Stage I is Rs. 43.52 crores (excluding ordinary loans) of principal and in Stage II is nil.

(b) Under revised financial pattern on Central assistance effective from 1.4.1986, the cost of construction of water courses from outlet to 5-8 ha. block is being borne by the Government of India and the State Government as grant on matching basis with no liability on farmers. Therefore, under the present financing pattern, the water courses construction in Indira Gandhi Nehar Project Stage-II would generally be borne by Government of India and the State Government. Only 1.24 lakh ha. of the Stage II of the project has been included under the Centrally sponsored scheme of Command Area Development.

(c) As regards Haryana and Punjab, no request was made by Haryana and Punjab to the Government of India while taking decision, if any, of waiving of the recoveries on account of loan recoverable from cultivators for construction of water courses.

[*Translation*]

#### **Price of Agricultural Commodities**

6415. SHRI MITRA SEN YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give remunerative prices of their agricultural products to the farmers;

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon; and

(c) the number of procurement centres proposed to be opened by Government during 1990-91 to give support prices to the farmers of their produce?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b). Government fixes the support price for major agricultural commodities. The procurement prices so fixed not only cover the farmer's cost of production, but also provide him a reasonable return. A net work of purchase centres is set up throughout the country and is expanded according to needs from time to time to avoid possibility of distress sale. With a view to ensuring fair returns to the farmers, the Government has recently set up an Expert committee, examine and recommend other measures to improve the remunerativeness of crop production.

(c) 7749.

[*English*]

#### **Production and Export of Cotton**

6416. DR. VENKATESH KABDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of record production of cotton in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government propose to encourage export of raw cotton to provide better price to the farmers;

(c) the export of raw cotton for the last three years,