

benefits and old age pension is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Storage Facility for Foodgrains Buffer-stock

*666. SHRI N.J. RATHWA:
SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains buffer-stock during the last two years and the current year;

(b) whether there has been an increase in the stock; and

(c) if so, the additional storage capacity created to meet the increasing requirements?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):
(a) and (b). The stock position of foodgrains (wheat, rice and coarse grains) with the public agencies during the last two years and the current year is as follows:

(In million tonnes)

1.4.1988	9.43
1.4.1989 (P)	7.39
1.4.1990 (P)	11.73

(P): Provisional

The stocks of foodgrains with public agencies as on 1.4.1990 were, thus, 58.7 percent more than the level that had prevailed on 1.4.1989.

(c) The storage capacity already existing with the public agencies is considered adequate to hold the current stocks.

Irrigation Projects in Vidarbha Regions

*667. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation projects in Vidarbha regions approved by Government during the Seventh Five Year Plan and their irrigation potential and estimated cost;

(b) the funds released to State Government for execution of these projects year-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid delay in execution and check cost escalation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Five major and four medium projects estimated to cost about Rs. 737 cores and benefitting an area of about 404 thousand hectares were found acceptable by the Advisory Committee subject to, among others, the State Government arranging clearance from forest and environmental angles.

(b) No fund is directly released by the Centre for these projects.

(c) State Government has to take the appropriate steps.