

finally decide about the projects to be posed for assistance from the Bank Group.

(ii) *National Highways Project—*

The Mission which is still in India has come to discuss the possibilities of formulating a new Project for construction and reconstruction of National Highways.

(iii) *Fisheries Development—*

A Project Report for development of Fisheries was prepared sometimes ago with the help of an FAO/IBRD team. The recent Mission came to have further discussions on the subject. The details of the proposed Project are under consideration.

Contraceptive Pills

*529. SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU-DHURI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made by the birth control pill and Nirodh, since they were put on the market in respect of their demand and popularity as compared to other contraceptives ;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported views of Dr. Robert W. Kistner of the Harvard Medical School in December issue of the "Ladies Home Journal" as also of another gynaecologist that birth control pills taken by women are having an adverse effect on their husbands, making some of them impotent and causing other problems ;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the precautionary measures taken if any to counter the aforesaid adverse effects of the pills ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FAMILY PLANNING, AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. S. CHANDRA SEKHAR) : (a) The oral contraceptive pills are still in an experimental-cum-demonstrational stage in pilot-projects to evaluate their use-acceptability and use-effectiveness. The pills which are sold in the market on the production of a prescription from a qualified medical practitioner, have not yet been accepted for general use in the family planning programme.

Besides its free distribution Nirodh is now being distributed through commercial channels also and the initial response regarding its demand and popularity is encouraging.

(b) Yes, Sir. The article appeared in the January, 1969 issue of the "Ladies Home Journal".

(c) and (d). The Government of India will be guided by the scientific findings of the oral pill pilot-projects that are being currently conducted.

Drought in Gujarat

*530. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Gujarat have submitted a report to the Central Government about the drought conditions in the State during the current year ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government have reported the existence of scarcity conditions in several districts of the State, caused by uneven and scanty rainfall during 1968. The State Government have declared 5760 villages as scarcity-affected and have undertaken the necessary relief measures.

As requested by the State Government, a Central team of officers visited Gujarat in February 1969 to make an assessment of the drought situation and the requirement of funds for the relief measures, for purposes of Central financial assistance. Necessary action will be taken in the light of the team's report.

Investment Policy of L. I. C.

*531. SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR :
SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to make any changes in the investment policy now pursued by the Life Insurance Corporation ; and