

gation Ministers was recently held at Madras:

(b) if so, what were the subjects discussed at that Conference;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a two day national conference of State Irrigation and Water Resources Ministers was held at New Delhi on 8th and 9th July, 1986;

(d) if so, what are the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof; and

(e) what progress has so far been made with regard to the formulation of a National Water Policy?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Subjects discussed include integrated water resources planning and development, utilisation of irrigation potential, cyclones, floods, and droughts, man-power planning, training and research, tribal sub-plans, special component plans, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Important issues arising out of the regional Conferences of Irrigation and Water Resources Ministers were discussed at the National Conference, and in the concluding session held on 21st July, 1986, recommendations/decisions were finalised regarding basin master-plan, catchment treatment, environment and forest clearance, projects clearance, prioritisation of on-going projects, funding for projects, water rates drought management etc.

(e) The draft of the National Water Policy is under preparation.

Demands of the Indian and Eastern News Papers Society

641. **SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:**
SHRI RAM AWADSH SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of **INFORMA-**

TION & BROADCASTING be pleased to State:

(a) whether on 1st July, 1986 the Indian and Eastern News Papers Society had given a strike call to newspapers in the country;

(b) if so, what are the demands of the Indian and Eastern News Papers Society and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) Reports to this effect appearing in the Press have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) According to the Press reports, the closure had been called for as a mark of protest against the alleged arbitrary policy of the Government in the matter of allowing higher quantum of Interim Relief to the Newspaper Employees, increase in newsprint prices, low rates for Government advertisements etc.

The Government is fully committed to the growth of a free Press in the country and has been taking all possible steps in a rational manner for its overall development within the constraints posed by limited availability of country's resources.

Cultivation of Oilseeds in Sea Water

642. **SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:**
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of **AGRICULTURE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Hindustan Times on June 9, 1986 to the effect that India has been offered technology by some US concerns to grow oilseed crops in sea-water, which promises tre-