

Irrigation charges

@*449-A. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether irrigation charges for different crops throughout the country are uniform; if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether irrigation charges are very high and the defaulters are charged three times the usual rates; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to mitigate the hardship of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) No, Sir. The irrigation charges crop-wise vary from State to State. Irrigation rates are fixed by taking into account various factors including situation in various parts of the State.

(b) and (c) The Irrigation charges, also called water rates, are not high. In fact the present water rates do not even cover fully in several States the running and maintenance costs of the irrigation systems.

Mobile hospital vans

*450. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA; DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile hospital vans serving the villages around the Union Territory of Delhi upto March, 1982; and

(b) whether a medical survey of the metropolitan slum areas has been conducted during the last two years?

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THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) There is no scheme of mobile hospital services in Delhi. However, under the Re-orientation of Medical Education Scheme 12 mobile clinics have been made available to the medical colleges in Delhi to upgrade the quality of health services in the areas covered by the urban and rural training centres attached to the medical colleges.

(b) No.

Cost escalation in Major and Medium Irrigation Projects

*451. SHRI LAKHAN SINGH; SHRI RAM LAKHAN PRASAD GUPTA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an escalation of more than Rs. 4,150 crores in the cost of major and medium irrigation projects sanctioned during the last ten years;

(b) if so, what is the State-wise and project-wise break-up of the cost escalation; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay and what measures Government have taken/proposed to take counteracting the escalation in cost?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) Sir,

(b) Broad State-wise information is enclosed (Annexure attached). The latest project-wise escalation is available as State Government has not prepared the latest estimates for all projects.

(c) The main reason for the delay in the completion of irrigation projects is that the State Governments have taken up far too many projects with the result that they are unable to provide adequate funds for them. Large scale rise in the