

195. [Transferred to 8th May, 1981.]

Barna Dam in Madhya Pradesh

196. SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that serious seepages have been found in the Barna Dam in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) what is the extent of the damage done so far; and

(c) what remedial steps Government have recommended and implemented in strengthening and protecting the dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) There has been a problem of seepage in the Barna Dam.

(b) There is no visible damage so far to the dam.

(c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh have set up a Technical Committee to advise the remedial measures. The Committee, in its first meeting held in March, 1981 *inter-alia*, recommended grouting the foundations and grouting of some selected area of the dam masonry in order to test the effectiveness of the grouting in reducing seepage and uplift pressures.

The Chief Engineer Barna Dam has informed that the work of grouting has since been awarded.

Allocation of Fund for the Development of Forestry during the Sixth Plan period

197. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently issued any guidelines for launching the social forestry programme in the country;

(b) what are the techniques that have been proposed by the forest management in this regard; and

(c) what amount has been allocated

for forestry during the Sixth Plan period for planting trees in Himachal Pradesh and in the hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (MISS. KAMALA KUMARI): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Under this scheme raising of fuelwood plantations on village common lands, Government Waste lands, degraded forests, on sides of roads, canals and railwaylines etc. has been prescribed. The species to be planted are to be fast growing and about 1500 plants are to be planted per ha. Under this scheme well grown seedlings of suitable species are to be supplied free of charge to farmers for planting in their farms and to children for planting under "A Tree for Every Child" programme. The seedlings to be supplied to the children are to be fruit trees.

(c) An amount of Rs. 29 crores has been allocated for Himachal Pradesh and Rs. 13.6 crores to the hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh for forestry development including planting of trees during the State Sixth Five Year Plan Period. In addition, under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Social Forestry' and 'Soil Water and Tree Conservation in the Himalayas' an amount of Rs. 4.42 crores for Himachal Pradesh and Rs. 6.33 crores for the hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh has been ear-marked as Central grant during the Sixth Five Year Plan.

Rise in the prices of essential commodities

198. SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM: SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM: SHRI D. HEERACHAND: SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the prices of all essential commodities have registered phenomenal increase during the last one month;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to check their prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJMOHAN MOHANTY): (a) There has been a mixed trend in the prices of various essential commodities during March, 1981 over February, 1981 in as much as the wholesale price indices of some commodities have increased, some have declined and some others have remained steady.

(b) The rise in prices of some essential commodities, apart from the general inflationary pressures in the economy, may be attributed to after effects of the unprecedented drought of 1979, fall in production of some essential commodities, increase in the prices of petro-products, increase in the administered prices of steel and coal, increase in support/procurement prices and the seasonality factor.

(c) The main thrust of the Government policy to curb the rising trend in the prices of essential commodities is to increase production. The public distribution system is being expanded. Arrangements for import of edible oils for the current oil year have been made to ensure supplies through the public distribution system. The export of essential commodities is being regulated and some essential commodities in short supply are being imported. The credit policy continues to be restrictive. The provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and Orders issued under it as well as the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 are being enforced vigorously by the States.

Recommendations of the Gujral Committee on Urdu.

199. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the recommendations of the Gujral Committee on Urdu, pertaining to the sphere of activity of his own Ministry;

(b) the status of the recommendations pertaining to other Ministries and Departments of Government;

(c) the status of the recommendations pertaining to the State Government;

(d) which Ministries/Departments of the Central Government and which State Governments have not yet responded to the recommendations; and

(e) the names of members of the various Committees established by Government to consider the recommendations of the Gujral Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI-MATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) to (e) The Gujral Committee Report is being examined by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the nodal Ministry for the purpose, in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories and other Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. A Sub-Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Education and Culture to look into the matter and make available a report of its recommendations. Prof. A. A. Suroor, Vice-Chairman of the Taraqqi-Urdu Board is the Chairman of this Sub-Committee. The other members are:—

1. Dr. Sarup Singh, M.P.
2. Shrimati S. Abid Hussain
3. Prof. Kalimuddin Ahmed
4. Shri Abid Ali Khan
5. Joint Educational Adviser (Languages) Ministry of Education and Culture
6. Prof. A. M. Khusro
7. Director, Bureau for Promotion of Urdu (Member-Secretary).