

the number of villages provided with drinking water facilities is obtained by the Government of India on the financial year basis. Information in respect of the period the first of January 1978 till date is, therefore, not available with Government.

(b) A total Central grant-in-aid amounting to Rs. 38.20 crores was released to State Govt./Union Territories during 1977-78 for being spent on providing safe drinking water to problem villages. No further grant-in-aid was released for this purpose during the quarter ending June, 1978.

Allegations made by Pt. Ravi Shanker against I.P.T.A.

*772 SHRI LAKHAN SINGH:
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD:
MATHUR:
SHRI HARISHANKER
BHABHA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report which appeared in the Indian Express of the 29th July, 1978 to the effect that the great sitarist, Pandit Ravi Shanker had disclosed in his autobiography being serialised in some Bengali newspapers to the effect that the activities of the Indian Peoples Theatre Association (IPTA) were detrimental to the proper development of art and artistes in India;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the present activities of the I.P.T.A.; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to keep proper vigilance over the activities of the Association?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) Yes, Sir. But the report does not lead to the inference that the activities of the Indian Peoples Theatre

Association were detrimental to the proper development of art and artistes in India.

(b) According to available information, although the Central body of the I.P.T.A. has ceased to function, some state bodies are engaged in useful work in the cultural field.

(c) In view of the position explained above, the question does not arise.

Financial Assistance for completion of Irrigation Projects in Madhya Pradesh

*773. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madhya Pradesh Government have urged the Central Government to provide financial assistance for the completion of some irrigation projects in that State;

(b) if so, what are the details of the projects for which financial assistance from the Central Government has been sought; and

(c) what action the Central Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Irrigation is a State subject and Central assistance is given in the form of block loans/grants which are not related to any sector of development or particular project. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have, however, requested for additional Central assistance of Rs. 12 crores for 1978-79 for acceleration of selected major and medium irrigation projects.

(b) The major and medium irrigation projects for which the additional