

About 105 million hectares of remaining land, being without irrigation facilities, was dependent on monsoon.

(c) Steps taken in an emergency, if monsoon fails, usually include :

(i) Maximum utilisation of irrigation facilities already available.

(ii) Raising of paddy nurseries in areas served with assured irrigation.

(iii) Expediting completion of schemes which are in advanced stage of construction.

(iv) Providing additional irrigation quickly by installation of pumps wherever feasible.

(v) Making available power for lift irrigation on over-riding basis by restricting power use in other sectors if necessary.

(vi) Allocating and maintaining adequate supply of diesel oil for operation of irrigation pumps.

Distress sale by rural families in West Bengal

730. SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item that appeared in the "Economic Times" of the 10th July, 1976 quoting a note of the West Bengal State Government to the effect that rural families holding either no land or upto 3.75 acres are even now the victims of money lenders as well as distress sale; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Inter-State water dispute

731. SHRI M. KADERSHAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of Inter-State water disputes which are yet to be settled ;

(b) what progress has been made in deciding the Cauvery dispute ; and

(c) by when it is likely to be settled ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH) : (a) The Inter-State river water disputes yet to be settled relate to the use and development of the waters of the Narmada and Godavari. Differences also persist among the concerned States with regard to the waters of the Cauveri, Yamuna and the Inter-State rivers between Bihar and West Bengal.

(b) and (c) The Central Government is anxious to resolve the differences amongst the States of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu as early as possible by negotiations. Officers of the Department of Irrigation had held discussions with the Officers of the three States in September, 1975. Following this, studies have been carried out regarding existing use and possible development of Cauveri waters consistent with reasonable needs of the three States. The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation proposes to discuss the matter further with the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Kerala and the Governor of Tamil Nadu shortly.

Loss due to cyclone along the West Coast

732. SHRI GOVINDRAO RAMCHANDRA MHAISEKAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the extent of loss of life and property of the fishermen due to the recent devastating cyclone along the West Coast particularly in Bombay;

(b) what measures Government propose to take to minimise the damage

frequently caused by cyclones along the West Coast; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Posha Pir Rack, notorious for its death trap for fishermen's boats, is proposed to be blasted ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL) : (a) In Maharashtra 22 fishermen are reported to have lost their lives. 14 mechanised and 3 non-mechanised boats valued at Rs. 16 lakhs were sunk and certain other vessels suffered damages. No loss of life has been reported from Gujarat but damage to boats, nets, houses and household kits is estimated at Rs. 5,58,000.

(b) A cyclone warning system already exists under the India Meteorological Department and timely warnings are issued through the All India Radio and to the Port Authorities concerned who hoist the appropriate storm warning signals. Constant surveillance of such storms by using various techniques and equipments is kept by India Meteorological Department. The methodology is being continuously reviewed and steps are being taken to improve it.

(c) Blasting of Posha tie Rock is not contemplated. However, the question of clearing up the mass of silt and sand, which has accumulated there, would be considered after the monsoons. The State Government also propose to provide a lighthouse at Posha Pir for the guidance of fishermen.

Wastage of cement

733. SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: SHRI NATHI SINGH : SHRI NRIPATI RANIAN CHAUDHURY: SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURA-GOHAIN : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 20 to 30 per cent of cement is wasted due to its improper use in the construction of buildings, dams, bridges, etc.; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken for the proper use of cement ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) It would not be correct to say that 20 to 30 per cent of cement is wasted due to wrong use in the construction of buildings, dams, bridges, etc. In the building industry, however, there is scope for effecting saving in the consumption of cement by adopting new and improved construction techniques and use of suitable substitutes. The recommendations made in this regard by the "Technical Committee on economy in the use of cement and steel in building construction" which submitted its report in November 1974, have been brought to the notice of the Departments concerned for adoption.

Weed Control Plan in Chambai, Rajasthan

734. SHRI NRIPATI RANIAN CHAUDHURY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that weed control plan in Chambai Command Area of Rajasthan has proved successful with the help of the Chinese fish named Grass Carp ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to extend the plan to other States; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Government of Rajasthan have informed that the Weed Control Plan in the Chambai Command area with the help of the Chinese fish named Grass Carp is at present in an experimental stage and as such it cannot be recommended for extending to other areas at this stage.