

**Utilisation of Rainfall for Irrigation Purposes**

233. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON :

DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRA-BARTI :

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :

SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOU-DHURY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to evolve a master plan for the utilisation of rain water in the country for irrigation purposes ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH) : (a) and (b) The average annual rainfall in the plains of the country amounts to 3440 thousand million cubic metres which appears partly as surface runoff and partly seeps underground. The utilisable surface and ground water potential of the country are at present assessed to be 666 thousand million cubic metres and 275 thousand million cubic metres respectively. It is estimated that by the end of the Fourth Plan, 241 thousand million cubic metres of surface water and 105 thousand million cubic metres of groundwater were being utilised for irrigation purposes. With the completion of large number of projects during the Fifth Plan Period, the utilisation at the end of the Fifth Plan is expected to increase to 298 thousand million cubic metres of surface water and 135 thousand million cubic metres of ground water. This would roughly be about 50 per cent of the ultimate utilisable potential.

Government is already taking steps for maximising the utilisation of the available water resources. Some of the important steps being taken in this respect are as under :

(i) Expediting the pace of development of irrigation by implementation of

larger programmes of major, medium and minor irrigation schemes ;

(ii) Integrated use of surface and ground water in the command of irrigation projects ;

(iii) Programme of Command Area Development to ensure optimum utilisation of irrigation potential created ;

(iv) Modernisation of existing canal systems including lining of channels ;

(v) Taking measures for effecting economy in use of water and optimising use of available water by better management and control.

**Price Indices for Agricultural and Industrial Commodities**

234. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON :

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :

SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOU-DHURY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state the comparative price indices for agricultural and industrial commodities since 1950-51 and steps taken to maintain parity between the aforesaid commodities ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS FATEL) : A statement giving the index numbers of wholesale prices of agricultural commodities and manufactures since 1950-51 is attached.

During the inflationary period of 1972-74, the price parity had become extremely favourable to agricultural commodities because of steep rise in their prices. From October, 1974 onwards, the decline in prices of agricultural commodities has been comparatively larger than that recorded by manufactures and this has taken the parity towards normalisation. The price parity, however, continues to be favourable to agricultural commodities.