

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) and (b) The information is as under :—

Years	Category of posts	No. of promotions made	No. of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs.	No. of such vacancies filled up
1973, 1974 and 1975	Class I	3
	Class II	..	2	..
	Class III	12	2	2
	Class IV	2

Narmada Water Dispute

493. SHRI RAMLAL D. PARIKH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state the progress made by the tribunal set up to adjudicate the matter relating to the Narmada water dispute ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI K. N. SINGH) : Since the agreement reached in July, 1974 amongst the party States on certain issues of Narmada dispute, the State of Gujarat has completed its preliminary arguments of the case before the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal. Arguments by the State of Madhya Pradesh are now in progress.

Cultivation of surplus fertile land

494. SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that vast acreage of cultivable land is lying unutilised in the country;

(b) if so, what is the acreage of such land in each State ?

(c) whether the Government have formulated any programme to bring this land under cultivation; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL : (a) According to the latest available Land Utilisation Statistics [(1972-73) Provisional] there are about 15.80 million

hectares of culturable wasteland in the country.

(b) The State-wise distribution of culturable waste-land in the country is annexed. [See below]

(c) and (d) At the outset it may be stated that the subject of "Land" falls in the State List of the Constitution, as such its development in the primary concern of the respective State Governments. However, continuous efforts are being made to reclaim these lands. As a result of such efforts, area of culturable wastelands in 1972-73 has been reduced to 15.80 million hectares as against 23 million hectares in 1951-52.

In the draft Fifth Five Year Plan, provision has been made for the following Central Sector Programmes having bearing on the reclamation of culturable wasteland :

Name of the Programme	Proposed outlay during the Fifth Five Year Plan
	Rs. in crores
1. Pilot projects for protection of Table Land and Stabilisation of Ravinous areas	3.00
2. Pilot project for Control of Shifting cultivation	10.00*
3. Pilot Project for Gainful Employment through Land Colonisation	5.00
4. Pilot projects for Reclamation of Saline, Alkali & Acid soils	13.00

*Includes Rs. 5.00 crores provided by the North Eastern Council through the Ministry of Home Affairs. Work in items 1, 2 and 4 are already in progress. Item No. 3 is under consideration.