

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In addition to the existing 6 programme districts covered under D.P.A.P., the Fact Finding Committee of Maharashtra State recommended areas from districts of Aurangabad, Bhir, Osmanabad, Jalgaon, Dhulia and Buldhana.

(c) It is not possible to extend the coverage of the programme to new areas due to the limited resources.

Clearance of Irrigation Projects in Maharashtra

564. SHRI K. N. DHULAP : SHRI DEORAO PATIL : PROF. N.M.KAMBLE : SHRI R.D.J. AVERGOANKAR :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra State is the second lowest irrigated State in India with about 10 per cent irrigation against the all India average of 27 percent ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 58 irrigation and hydro-power projects for that State are pending clearance with the Central Water and Power Commission ; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for delay, and the steps taken by Government to expedite the clearance of these projects ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI K. N. SINGH) : (a) The irrigation potential created by major, medium and minor irrigation schemes in Maharashtra by the end of Fourth Plan was about 11.5 per cent of the cropped area in the State and is the third lowest in the country.

(b) and (c) 57 irrigation schemes proposed by Maharashtra are pending clearance in Central Water Commission. Of these, 41 schemes are in Godavari basin, the water disputes regarding which are under adjudication before a Tribunal. Clearance of these schemes will thus have to await the award of the Tribunal. The schemes are under various stages of examination.

Only one hydro-electric project viz. Jalsindhi Project in Narmada basin is pending clearance. This will have to await the award of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal.

Mr. Daniel Moynihan's Statement about Agricultural Potential of India

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in the 'Times of India' of 9th January, 1975 to the effect that Mr. Daniel Moynihan, Former U.S. Ambassador to India is reported to have stated that there was no prospect of India producing enough food for its 600 million people for at least 7 to 10 years but its ultimate agricultural potential was "so staggering that it could almost feed the world", and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and what action is proposed to be taken in this matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due priority is given to Irrigation schemes. As a result, irrigation potential has increased from 22.6 million hectares in 1950-51 to 44.6 million hectares in 1973-74. By the end of V Plan it is planned to achieve a potential of 57 million hectares out of a total potential of 107 million, hectares. In view of this and other measures, the foodgrains production target of 140 million tonnes has been fixed for the terminal year of the V Plan.

Wheat Prices for the Rabi crop

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

(a) whether Government propose to announce wheat prices for the next rabi crop ;

(b) if so, by when ; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) to (c) The procurement price of wheat for the next rabi crop will be fixed by Government before the commencement of the harvesting season.

Agricultural Research Service

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