

intensification of rural electrification programmes for energisation of pump-sets and tubewells, requirement of additional funds for power generation and accelerated implementation of selected minor irrigation projects, expediting selected major and medium irrigation projects, supply of materials like aluminium conductors and cables, diesel oil, cement etc. During the discussions, it was agreed to lay emphasis on optimum utilisation of available irrigation potential; coordinated supplies and optimum utilisation of inputs; intensive campaign for the development of organic manures; effective organisation and arrangements for institutional credit; readiness with alternative production strategy in the event of failure of and/or excessive rain or floods; coordinated functioning of various Departments/Organisations connected with agricultural production and close link between research and extension agencies and training of farmers. The shortage of aluminium for electric conductors was noticed and a special allocation of 5,000 tonnes of electric conductor grade aluminium has thereafter been made to the State Governments largely for cable manufacture through small scale units. The States were advised that additional funds, if any needed for priority schemes should be found through re-appropriation within the approved outlay for the agriculture and other sectors.]

Selection of a Site for Fishing Harbour in Maharashtra

*769. SHRI K. N. DHULAP : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of meetings held during the last three years between the Central Government officers and the officers of the Government of Maharashtra for the selection of site for location of a major fishing harbour in that State; and

(b) what is the out-come thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Two meetings have been held, in addition to periodic discussions between Port Trust and Member, Planning Commission during the last three years for the selection of a site for the location of a major fishing harbour.

(b) A fishing harbour at Sassoon Dock, Bombay, was sanctioned in 1969 at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.74 crores. A total sum of Rs. 34.56 lakhs was spent on reclamation and clearance of foreshore at this site. When quotations for the marine component of the work were invited by the Bombay Port Trust, only one firm, a Yugoslav firm tendered. The tender amount was Rs. 10.18 crores. The assessment of the Bombay Port Trust was that the whole work would cost about Rs. 14.61 crores. In the light of the huge cost of the project and other factors, it was proposed that other sites should be examined. The Maharashtra Government finally proposed that both Sassoon Dock and Agardanda should be developed as fishing harbours. In the latest meeting held in July 1974, it has been decided that Sassoon Dock proposal should be examined to provide facilities to meet the immediate requirements. Agardanda may be considered as a possible site on a long term basis, provided its economic viability is proved.

Palaces and Stadium at Sibsagar

*770. SHRI K. B. CHETTRI :
SHRI NABIN CHANDRA
BURAGOHAIN :

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

(a) whether the palaces (Kareng-ghar) and the stadium (Rang-ghar) of the Ahom