

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) The outlay by State Governments during the Fourth Plan on major and medium irrigation projects is expected to be Rs. 1225 crores. The programme is expected to have created an additional irrigation potential of 3.3 million ha.

(a) and (c) In the Fifth Plan, creation of an additional irrigation potential of 6.2 million ha. is envisaged.

At the end of the Fifth Plan, the irrigation potential from major and medium projects is expected to be 27.6 million ha. while that under other categories (minor irrigation) is expected to be 29.5 million ha. making a total of about 57 million ha.

The total cropped area in the country is about 169 million ha. The State Governments are planning and investigating new projects and will be taking them up for implementation in the future plans as and when investigations are completed and resources become available. Ultimately, it is expected that about 50 per cent of the cropped area can be provided irrigation facilities while it may not be possible to provide such facilities in other areas due to limitation of water resources at specific sites, and non-feasibility of schemes due to topographical, geological, hydrological and economic considerations.]

Introduction of a new system of voting

647. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Election Commission introduced a new system of voting in the recent elections; and

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

†[] English Translation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY) : (a) and (b) The system of voting followed at the recent general elections is the same as the one followed at the general elections to the various State Assemblies in 1972.

However, in the State of Nagaland, this is the first time that the marking system of voting, as in other States, with ballot papers showing the names of the contesting candidates and the symbols assigned to them has been introduced in place of the balloting system of voting previously adopted in that State.

648. [Transferred to the 22nd March, 1974.]

Help by Gulf Countries to developing Countries

649. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :
SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT :
SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATFL :
SHRI CHANDRAMOULI JAGLAMUDI :
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement made by Shah of Iran for devising a special plan by Gulf countries for helping developing nations like India in regard to the additional burden imposed upon them as a result of increased price of crude oil; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bilateral arrangements with some Gulf countries are being negotiated. It is not in the public interest to disclose the details at this stage.