

(b) Details of further collaboration and exchanges in the fields of education, science and technology, art and culture, sports, health, radio, press and TV etc. in pursuance of the revised Indo-Iraqi Cultural Agreement signed on the 19th April, 1973 were discussed. It was agreed between the two sides to have a regular Programme of exchanges in these fields as soon as the Agreement is ratified.

Committee to study the slow progress of Family Planning Programme

475. SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHA-DÉR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed to study the factors responsible for the slow progress of family planning programme in certain areas and to suggest ways and means to give it necessary impetus has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are its main recommendations; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI KON-DAJJI BASAPPA): (a) The final report is yet to be received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Agro-Industrial Corporation

476. SHRI SANDA NARA-YANAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agro-industrial Corporations in the country have increased their rate of interest on loans advanced to agriculturists; and

(b) if so, what is the increase in the rate of interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Gauhati-Shillong National Highway

477. SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY:

DR. K. K. CHAKRABARTI:

SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of the National Highway between Gauhati and Shillong is deplorable at many places; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to repair the highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI M. B. RANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Dry Land Development Project in Maharashtra

478. SHRI N. G. GORAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large amounts allocated by the Central Government to Maharashtra State since 1970/71 for search and field work on dry land farming have been lying unutilised during the last three years at the integrated Dry Land Development Project Centres at Mandrup (Sholapur) and Akola;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these projects were set up in the year 1970-71;

(c) the reasons for State Government's apathy;

(d) whether the amounts have been credited back to the Central Government; and

(e) If not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) to (c) The Integrated Dry Land Project