

SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:

SHRI HARSH DEO MALA
VIYA

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of rural housing projects sanctioned for different States and the amount of Central financial allocation made in each case during the last year and the current year;

(b) the number of such schemes under consideration; and

(c) the reasons for delay in the sanctioning of the pending schemes?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHOLA PASWAN SHASTRI): (a) to (c) A statement containing the requisite information in respect of the Central Sector Scheme for Provision of House-sites to Landless Workers in Rural Areas is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Sec Appendix LXXXV, Annexure No. 6.]

Pending Schemes are sanctioned if the acquisition costs are reasonable and if the budgetary provision is sufficient to meet the expenditure proposed.

There is another Scheme known as Village Housing Projects Scheme which is included in the State Sector. Financial assistance for all the State Sector Schemes is given in the shape of 'Block Loans' and 'Block Grants' without being tied to any particular scheme or head of development. The State Governments are themselves competent to sanction projects and allocate funds to such schemes according to their own requirements and priorities.

POTABLE WATER SHORTAGE IN THE COUNTRY

•75. SHRI MATI LAKSHMI
KUMARI CHUNDAWAT: SHRI
MOHAMMED USMAN
ARIF: SHRI SAWAISINGH
SISODIA : SHRI MONORANJAN
ROY :

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment to find out the main reasons for the potable water shortage in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the schemes under Government's consideration to meet the shortage; and

(d) the total amount spent by Government for water supply schemes during the Fourth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHOLA PASWAN SHASTRI) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) The subject of water and water supplies is under entry 17 in the State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. However realising the importance of the matter the Central Government has also initiated a Centrally sponsored scheme of Special Investigations in the States to assess the problem of shortage of drinking water in permanently disadvantaged villages. According to these investigations, the reason for non-availability of drinking water is due to the difference in the availability of ground and surface water in the various parts of the country which is due to the following reasons:—

(i) Climatic conditions.

(ii) Uneven distribution of rainfall and rivers.

(iii) Difference in natural features including geological formations.

Increase in population and in the standard of living also add to the problem.

(c) and (d) By the end of the Fourth Plan the expenditure incurred by State Governments on rural water supply schemes in the plan period will be of the order of about Rs. 150 to 160 crores against an out-lay of Rs. 125 crores. Besides, the Central Government under the Accelerated Programme for Rural Water Supply, will be giving about Rs. 34 crores during the last two

years of the Fourth Plan as full grant in aid to State Governments and Union Territories for water supply schemes in the difficult and problem villages. During the Fourth Plan the State Governments will be spending Rs. 280 crores urban > supply and sewerage schemes which do not include the special funds being spent for the development of Calcutta and Bombay.

Rural water supply is an important objective under the Minimum Needs Programme in the Fifth Plan and it is proposed to provide Rs. 550 crores for this purpose during the Fifth Plan period. This will solve bulk of the problem of drinking water in the problem rural areas.

It is proposed to provide Rs. 250 crores in the Fifth Plan for Urban Water Supply and Sewerage schemes.

NEW NATIONAL HIGHWAYS FOR WEST BENGAL

*76. SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:

MISS SAROJ PURUSHOTTAM
KHAPARDE:

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI:

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

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal have submitted any plan to the Central Government for the construction of new national highways in that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any action has so far been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c) Presumably, the Members have in mind the proposals submitted by the Government of West Bengal for making new additions to the existing National Highway System in the State in the 5th Five Year Plan. These proposals include the following roads suggested by the State

Govt, for being taken over as new National Highways in the 5th Five Year Plan:

Route proposed	Approx length in Kms.
1. Durgapur (on N. H. 2) to Kharagpur (NH 6) (via) Backura and Chandrakona.	166.00
2. Morgram on NH 34 to Burdwan on N.H.2 [(via) Kurli-Ramjibanpur-Palitpur]-Panskura[(via) Arambagh and Chatal]	253.00
3. Jhalda to N.H. 6 (via) Chas, Purulia, Mambazar, Raipur, Goaltar and Chandrakona.	140.00
4. Hill Cart Road connecting Siliguri and Darjeeling.	80.00
5. Sonapurghat-Siliguri-Jalpaiguri-Dhupguri - Pundibari-Baxirhat Road.	109.00
6. Galgalia-Naxalbari - Bagdogra-Chalsa - Nagrakata - Baxirhat-Gairkata-Hashimara-Rajobhatkora-Bholka Road.	268.50
	<hr/> 1,016.50

Similar proposals have been received from other State Governments also. All these proposals will have to be considered while finalising proposals for the Fifth Plan keeping in view the funds which might be made available for the purpose in that Plan the *inter se* priorities of these proposals on an all India basis, and the criteria laid down for classification of roads as National Highways. Meanwhile, examination of the technical data received from the State Governments, concerned is in hand.

EXPLOITATION OF BEGGARS

*77. SHRI G. R. PATIL:

SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the beggars in the Rehabilitation Homes of Delhi are being employed as forced labour in projects by various public authorities;