

(b) if so, whether the above companies have approached the Government of India for the renewal of the Agreements;

(c) the decisions taken by Government in this regard;

(d) the date of expiry of the Agreement with the Caltex; and

(e) whether Government propose to renew the Agreement with them also?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI ASOKA MEHTA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) There is no date of expiry stipulated in the agreements.

(e) Does not arise.

#### PILOT PROJECTS IN ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES

\*350. SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of oral contraceptive pilot projects functioning in India;

(b) the results obtained by the use of oral contraceptives; and

(c) what steps are being taken to popularise oral contraceptives and to supply them to public at cheaper price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) 129 pilot projects are functioning at present.

(b) The duration of the pilot projects extends to a period of two years and final results will be available after the data obtained has been analysed and evaluated.

(c) The question of popularising oral contraceptives and their supply to the public at cheaper rates will be considered after the use-effectiveness and use-acceptability of this method of family planning is demonstrated in various sections of the population.

\*351. [Postponed to the 13/A August, 1968.]

#### DELAY IN SANCTIONING STATE IRRIGATION SCHEMES

\*352- SHRI J. S. TILAK : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report appearing in a section of the Bombay Press recently to the effect that Maharashtra's Minister for Irrigation and Power made a statement that many of the irrigation schemes submitted by the State Government to the Centre for sanction seemed to have been unnecessarily delayed by the latter;

(b) if so, what is the exact position in the matter; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to sanction these schemes expeditiously to avoid further delay in their execution?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a)

to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir. Government's attention has been to a report about a Statment made by the Irrigation and Power Minister, Maharashtra, regarding delay in sanctioning major and medium irrigation projects of Maharashtra by the Centre.

(b) and (c) All the schemes of Maharashtra included in the Third Plan have been approved, though scope of some of them are greatly different from the once indicated earlier. Besides the above, two major schemes the scope of which are also different from that indicated earlier and 22 medium schemes, out of 36 new medium irrigation schemes, have been sanctioned.

Of the 14 medium irrigation schemes the State Governments have been advised to reconsider certain aspects of 6 schemes. The remaining 8 schemes have been received from the State Governments during the last two months and their technical scrutiny is being taken up. As regards other major schemes the question of their clearance will be considered while finalising the Fourth Plan of the State Government.

#### NATIONALISATION OF GENERAL INSURANCE IN KERALA

\*353. SHRI B. K. MAHANTI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :