

STATEMENT

Subsidy wells in Rayalaseema Districts

(a) to (d) No proposal for construction of subsidised wells in Rayalaseema districts has so far been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation.

2. An outlay of Rs. 300 lakhs has been approved by the Planning Commission in respect of 'Minor Irrigation' Programme of the Government of Andhra Pradesh for 1968-69.

3. According to the existing procedure of the release of central financial assistance in respect of State Plan schemes, the assistance is released annually towards the close of financial year under broad heads of development like 'Agricultural Production', 'Minor Irrigation' and not scheme-wise on the basis of figures of actual expenditure for the first three quarters and anticipated for the fourth, received from the State Finance Department.

4. With effect from 1-4-1967, the schemes under the 'Minor Irrigation' programme, are eligible for central assistance limited to 60% loan and 15% subsidy on the basis of actual expenditure subject to the overall outlay approved by the Government of India. The State Government, in turn, may allow any amount of subsidy for any scheme but the liability of the Government of India on subsidy would be limited to 15% of the actual expenditure according to the existing procedure. Necessary sanctions regarding central financial assistance for 1968-69 will be issued towards the close of the year as indicated in para 3.

HIGH COURT JUDGES ACTING AS TRIBUNALS

*627. SHRI P. C. MITRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the observation made by the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court before the newsmen in Calcutta to the effect that the existing rules relating to High Court Judges acting as Tribunal under the Industrial Disputes Act were such that they required modifications and further that the tribunals were under the control of the Ministry of Labour and it was not possible for him to allow this to operate in case of High Court Judges; and

(b) if so, whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to modify these rules?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI) : (a) According to press reports these observations were made by the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court before reporters in Darjeeling in May last.

(b) The observations were made in connection with the proposal of the West Bengal Government to appoint a serving High Court Judge as the Presiding Officer of an Industrial Tribunal. The proposal was later dropped by the State Government. No proposal is under consideration to modify the Industrial Disputes Act or the rules made thereunder on this account.

STARVATION DEATHS IN ASSAM

*628. SHRI M. ASAD MADANI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that twenty-two people died of starvation and many more are living on a starvation diet in and around the Laisong area in North Cachar Hills in Assam;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what measures Government have taken to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

EXPORT OF VEGETABLE SEEDS

*629. SHRI TARKESHWAR PANDE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a high-power delegation recently visited U. S. A., Canada and the Phillipines on a study tour with a view to explore possibilities for enhancing export of vegetable seeds;

(b) if so, the details of the visit and the delegation's recommendations on the export of vegetable seeds to foreign countries;

(c) the expected foreign exchange earnings on the expansion of export in this respect; and