Impact of dolling out of free electronic equipments on funds for various schemes

1472. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the State Governments are dolling out laptops, mobiles and TVs as freebies;
- (b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has cautioned the States on the adverse impact of such schemes; and
- (c) whether the Planning Commission has issued any advisory to State Government to focus on the right kind of infrastructure development and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) The Government is aware that a few State Governments are distributing laptops, TVs, bicycles and other consumer durables & non-durables under State schemes to different categories of beneficiaries.

(b) and (c) During the Annual Plan discussions, Planning Commission advises the States to formulate and implement schemes to achieve plan objectives and outcomes effectively, particularly in the areas of physical & social infrastructure.

Procedure for sanctioning projects

 $1473.\,\mathrm{SHRIMATI}$ MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to change the procedure of sanctioning of various beneficial multi-purpose projects related to irrigation, power and flood relief etc. as the present procedure is long and tedious and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the less irrigated States like Madhya Pradesh would be given any preference and priority in irrigation scheme projects and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The irrigation schemes are provided Central assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. The existing guidelines for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme provide for higher grant assistance of 90% of the project cost, if the irrigation projects benefit Drought Prone/Tribal/Flood Prone areas of the State. Madhya Pradesh is exempted from the one to one norm of project inclusion (i.e. inclusion of one new project against one completed project) as it has lower irrigation development as compared to the national average.

Aadhar cards issued to citizens

1474. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Aadhar Cards issued to citizens of this county, State-wise and by when the gap is going to be filled;
- (b) to what extent 300 permanent Aadhar Centres going to help in clearing the backlog; and