

consensus evolved at a National Seminar which favoured the development of the system for assessment and accreditation of institutions of higher education under the auspices of the University Grants Commission.

Assistance for Agricultural Development

*255. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought World Bank aid for the development of agriculture in the country;

(b) whether World Bank has considered the matter;

(c) if so, the total amount of aid expected to be obtained; and

(d) the details of the developmental activities proposed to be taken up with the World Bank aid?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) A sum of US \$ 213.53 million in expected to be obtained in connection with the two Agricultural Development Projects under implementation in Tamil Nadu & Rajasthan. Assistance from the World Bank has been sought for Agricultural Development Projects in Assam, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. An amount of US \$200 million is expected to be provided in the case of the Assam & Karnataka Projects. As regards Madhya Pradesh, it is too early to indicate any figure.

(d) Developmental activities proposed to be taken up with the World Bank

aid include improving the capability of State Governments to analyse development constraints and establish priorities; develop Institutions for rendering cost-effective service to farmers; support priority investment Programmes in agricultural and rural development identified in the State agricultural perspective plan; to accelerate the growth of agriculture through improved technical, financial and economic use of resources; and enhance sustainability of the productive resource base.

[*Translation*]

Women Welfare Fund

*256. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA
PRABHA URS:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government have started providing loans to poor women from Women Welfare Fund;

(b) if so, the number of applications received in this regard during 1993-94 till date;

(c) the number of women to whom loans have been given and the amount thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 75 applications for credit limits have been received so far.

(c) 14 applications with appregate credit limit of Rs.336.00 lakhs, benefiting