

1991 an Expert Committee to go into the details of all aspects of the Pullichintala Project and prepare a project report in a manner acceptable to the Central Water Commission.

accordingly pursuing the matter with the State Governments. The Project can be considered for acceptance only after the satisfactory resolution of the associated issues including environmental and forest clearances.

Vamsadhara Project Stage II

355. SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vamsadhara Project Stage II is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the steps taken to accord clearance to the project; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Advisory Committee for the clearance of the projects had deferred the consideration of the project for want of resolution of inter-State issues concerning submergence of land in Orissa. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh is also required to obtain clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Welfare from environmental angle and for rehabilitation and resettlement issues respectively.

(b) and (c) In a meeting of the officials of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa convened in the Ministry in March, 1991 for resolution of inter-State issues, it was decided that the officials of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Central Water Commission should inspect the site jointly for examining the necessity of the hydraulic model studies. The Central Water Commission is

[*Translation*]

Development of Agriculture in Backward Areas

356. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural productivity has declined due to continuous rise in the prices of agricultural inputs;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any schemes to control the prices of agricultural inputs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government have formulated any schemes for the benefit of farmers living in the backward, hilly and plateau regions of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN). (a) No, Sir. The agricultural productivity has shown a sustained growth rate of 2.47% per annum during the period 1967-68 to 1989-90.

(b) and (c) In order to keep the cost of production within the limits the Government have been providing major agriculture inputs viz., fertilisers, power, irrigation, pesticides etc., at reasonable and subsidised prices. In fact, prices of fertilisers, which is a major purchased input have not been raised since 1986.