

specially catered to. A comprehensive scheme of crop insurance is being introduced for paddy, wheat, oilseeds and pulses for which insurance charges will be low and the charges for small and marginal farmers would be subsidised. It is also proposed to strengthen the price support operations for the benefit of the farmers.

#### **Target for Raising the Income of Families of Target Group**

982. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the target for raising the income of the families belonging to the target group consisting of small and marginal farmers, share croppers, agricultural labourers, landless people and rural artisans in West Bengal under the Integrated Rural Development Programmes during the Sixth Five Year Plan period 1980-85;

(b) to what extent the above target has so far been achieved in West Bengal;

(c) the amount of assistance sanctioned by the Centre and the amount of this assistance which was actually utilised for the above purpose by the Government of West Bengal upto 1983-84; and

(d) the reasons for shortfall, if any, in achieving the target or utilisation of the assistance sanctioned by the Centre ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). A target of assisting 10.05 lakh families was set for West Bengal under the Intergrated Rural Development Programme during the Sixth Five Year Plan period (1980-85). Against this target, 5.52 lakh families had been assisted under the programme during the Sixth Five Year Plan period upto December, 1984.

(c) Against the Central allocation of Rs. 4522.50 lakhs, an amount of Rs. 1319.92 lakhs was released by the Central Government for the IRD Programme to West Bengal for 1980-84. In addition, an amount of Rs. 661 lakhs released by Centre in 1978-80 was also available with the State. The total utilisation, including

the State share, during 1980-84 was Rs. 3001.12 lakhs.

(d) The main reason for the shortfall in the achievement of target and utilisation of assistance in West Bengal was the late start of the Programme resulting in slow progress in the implementation during the initial years of the Sixth Plan. The pace of implementation has picked up from 1983-84 onwards.

#### **Funds for Development of Rural Roads in Hilly Areas of Maharashtra**

983. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has any proposal to sanction funds for the development of rural roads in hilly and inaccessible areas of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the areas of Maharashtra to be included in that proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). The development of rural roads is mainly taken up as part of minimum needs programme in the state sector, funds for which are provided in the state plans. As per information given by the State Government in the Draft Seventh Five Year Plan and Annual Plan 1985-86 document for Maharashtra the State Government undertook rural roads development in backward areas of Vidharbha and hilly areas of Western Maharashtra during the Sixth Plan. An amount of Rs. 17.29 crores is likely to be spent on Vidharbha roads and Rs. 7.39 crores on special roads programme in hilly areas during Sixth Plan period. In hilly areas 585 foot bridges are expected to be completed with an expenditure of Rs. 7.37 crores.

The States can also take up rural road schemes under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme which is a central sector programme launched in August, 1983. Rural roads projects costing Rs. 29 crores for Maharashtra have been approved under this programme.