

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State Government of Kerala has proposed to create an additional irrigation potential of 59,354 hectares during 1987-88.

**Flood relief to Orissa and
Andhra Pradesh**

5755. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Central team visited the States of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa to assess the requirement of fund for flood relief measures;

(b) if so, the recommendation made by the team; and

(c) the funds released during the year 1986-87 to the States for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) A Central Team visited the State of Andhra Pradesh in September/October, 1986 to assess the requirement of funds for flood relief measures. No team was sent to Orissa as no memorandum from the Government of Orissa seeking assistance for flood relief was received.

(b) and (c). On the basis of the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 132.37 crores has been approved to Andhra Pradesh for flood relief for the year 1986-87. Against the said ceiling of expenditure, a non-plan grant of Rs. 86.97 crores and Advance Plan Assistance of Rs. 2.00 crores has been released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the year 1986-87.

Seeds villages for oilseeds and pulses

5756. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government propose to set up seed villages for the production of seeds of pulses and oilseeds to enable the farmers to increase the production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). There is no such proposal in case of pulses. However, for oilseeds, financial assistance of Rs. 150/- per quintal on the quantity of certified seed produced under seed village scheme for groundnut and soybean is provided in the Centrally Sponsored National Oilseeds Development Project.

Import of pig iron

5757. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of pig iron imported during the year 1986-87;

(b) the names of the countries from which the imports were made; and

(c) the reasons for the imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Canalised import of pig iron through MMTC during April, 1986 to February, 1987 was 14134 tonnes, valued at Rs. 2.59 crores.

(b) The imports have been made from Brazil.

(c) Import is allowed as domestic production is not enough to meet the requirements of the consumers in full.

Power tillers

5758. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agency under his Ministry has collected any information regarding power tillers and whether its utility and price are favourable to the farmers;

(b) whether any research has been conducted on various types of pumping sets working in the country and if so, what steps have been taken to ensure that this machinery may be made easily available to the farmers at cheap rates; and

(c) the measures taken to publicise the utility of pumping sets to small farmers and to popularise it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The Central Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute, Budni (M.P.) has conducted performance tests on power tillers being produced in the country and the same has been found to be satisfactory. The popularity of the power tiller has been going up which is evident from the fact that their sales have increased from 2901 in 1983-84 to 3754 in 1985-86.

The power tillers are available in horse power range of 6-12 and their prices vary between Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 35,500. They are particularly suited to the requirement of farmers with small holdings.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research have an All India Coordinated Research Project on optimisation of ground water utilisation through wells and pumps.

Adequate manufacturing capacities of pumpsets has been created in the country and they are freely available in the market.

(c) Under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for assisting the small and marginal farmers, subsidy on minor irrigation work which also includes pumping sets, is available.

The rate of subsidy is 25 per cent for small farmers, 33-1/3 per cent for marginal farmers and 50 per cent for Scheduled Tribe farmers.

Plan to Combat soil erosion

5759. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA

MALIK :

SHRI R. P. DAS :

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Soil and Water Conservation and Training Institute, Dehradun has evolved any plan to combat the problem of soil erosion; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

The Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute at Dehradun and its Regional Centres at Chandigarh, Ootacamund, Agra, Kota, Vasad and Bellary have developed a package of soil and water conservation practices to combat the problems of soil erosion in the hill regions, ravine areas and semi-arid black soil regions, represented by these centres. These package of practices include protective and productive cropping practices, afforestation with suitable tree species, grassland development, water harvesting structures and mechanical measures wherever necessary. The mechanical measures include contour cultivation, contour bunding, graded bunding, bench terracing, trenching, construction of grade stabilization structures and retention reservoirs. Depending on the slope, soil erodibility and rainfall characteristics appropriate agronomic and mechanical measures are recommended for different regions.

The technologies developed at these centres are being adopted by the Department of Soil Conservation and Agriculture in different States in their soil conservation implementation programmes. So far, the Institute has trained 1452 Officers and 46,644 Assistants sponsored by the various State Governments in all aspects of soil and water conservation measures. To tackle the problems of soil and water conservation in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh