

sion. The components and the number of villages to be included in the Project, final cost and the extent of assistance are yet to be finalised.

### **Shortage of Drinking Water in Bihar and Rajasthan**

1669. PROF. YADUNATH PANDEY:  
SHRI NATHU SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are aware that there is acute shortage of drinking water in Bihar and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the specific steps proposed to be taken to solve water shortage in these States; and

(c) the amount earmarked for the purpose by Union Government?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No report of shortage of drinking water in Bihar has been received from the State Government. However, the State Government of Rajasthan had submitted a memorandum seeking central assistance.

(b) and (c). A central team visited Rajasthan in January, 1990. Based on its report and recommendations of High Level Committee on Relief, ceilings of expenditure of Rs. 2.479 crores and Rs. 3.093 crores were approved by Government of India for making drinking water supply arrangements in urban and rural areas respectively for the period ending March, 1990.

In addition under the normal plan programme of Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme

(ARWSP) and Mini Mission Project Areas, funds amounting to Rs. 36.66 crores and Rs. 3.50 crores have been released respectively in 1989-90 to the Government of Rajasthan for tackling the problem of drinking water in problem villages.

Central assistance of Rs. 27.12 crores under ARWSP and Rs. 1.51 crores for Mini Mission Project Areas was released in 1989-90 to the State Government of Bihar.

### **Development of Deserts in Rajasthan**

1670. SHRI NATHU SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programme for development of deserts in Rajasthan; and

(b) the amount proposed to be earmarked for the implementation of the programme in Rajasthan during the year 1990-91?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) A central sector scheme designated as Desert Development Programme has been in operation in 84 blocks of 11 districts of Rajasthan. The programme aims at arresting desertification of these areas and restoration of ecological balance by taking up schemes of stabilisation of sand dunes, water resources conservation, pasture and grassland development and afforestation including shelterbelt plantations. During the 7th Plan, an expenditure of Rs. 134.14 cores has been incurred under the Programme upto December, 1989.

(b) An outlay of Rs. 3800 lakhs is proposed for the programme in the State for 1990-91.