

[*Translation*]

Water Scarcity in Drought Stricken Areas

2046. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI R. M. BHOYE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state .

(a) whether Central Government have asked the State Government to report about those districts which are drought stricken and suffering from water scarcity;

(b) if so, the districts in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra where there is a shortage of drinking water; and

(c) the form of assistance being provided by Union Government to the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The Central Government have not specifically asked the State Governments to report about districts which are affected by drought and suffering from water scarcity. However, the State Governments report the position to the Central Government from time to time and also give information in Memoranda seeking Central assistance for meeting the situation created by drought.

(b) In their Memorandum received on 12th November, 1986, the Government of Madhya Pradesh have stated that areas in 35 districts are affected by drought and 29 districts are likely to face shortage of drinking water. It has not been claimed that there is shortage of drinking water at present due to inadequate rainfall. The Maharashtra Government have stated in their Memorandum received on 12 November that 18 districts are affected by drought and face shortage of drinking water.

(c) Apart from the assistance provided as 100% grant-in-aid to the State Governments under the Plan Scheme of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, in 1986-87 Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra were

sanctioned ceilings of expenditure for drinking water supply programme as a drought relief measure amounting to Rs. 4.10 crores and Rs. 47.23 crores respectively.

[*English*]

Revision in Minimum Wages

2047. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to revise upward, the minimum wages of the landless agricultural labour, and other daily rated workers in general, in view of the soaring prices of essential commodities; and

(b) whether Government propose to appoint any Commission to examine the matter and recommend the steps in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Based on the recommendations of the 31st Session of the Labour Minister's Conference held in July, 1980, the Central Government revises minimum wages in scheduled employments including landless agricultural labour, once in two years or on a rise of 50 points in Consumer Price Index number whichever is earlier. The State Governments have also been advised to follow this recommendation while revising minimum wages in the scheduled employments for which they are the appropriate Governments under the Minimum Wages Act.

(b) No, Sir.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Mini Steel Plants in U.P.

2048. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up mini steel plants in Uttar Pradesh during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the locations thereof and the date by which these plants will be set up;