

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) The latest available land use statistics is for the year 1984-85. As per this the net unirrigated area is 98.9 m.ha. The figures for 1987-88 are not available.

(b) and (c). Not applicable.

(d) The Department of Agriculture has taken up a National Watershed Development Programme for rainfed agriculture during 1986-87 with an outlay of Rs. 239 crores as a special programme to stabilise and increase the crop yields in dryland areas. This scheme is in operation in 99 districts of 16 States falling in the rainfall range of 500-1125 m.m.

Telecast of Canadian Film in Film Festival

926. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for selection of films to be shown in International Film Festivals in India;

(b) whether Canadian film named "I have heard Mermaids Sing" glorifying lesbian trend was shown in the recent film festival held at Trivandrum if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether films shown in the festival are passed by the Censor Board; and

(d) whether films shown in the film festival are examined to see if they violate the Indian law relating to obscenity and indecency?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The basis of selection of films for participation in International Film Festival in India is their artistic, technical and thematic merit. This in turn is decided on the basis of participation in other important International Film Festival, winning of

awards and critical acclaim by important film journals and film personalities.

(b) The film "I'VE HEARD THE MERMAIDS SING" was screened at Filmotsav '88. The film does not glorify lesbian trends. It is a critically acclaimed film and was screened in the prestigious Cannes Film Festival in May, 1987, and many other International Film Festivals subsequently.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. Exemption from censorship is granted to films screened in International Film Festivals on the basis of the International Convention on the subject. However, films likely to violate our sensibility are not selected for participation.

Central Aid to Orissa for Drought

927. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance made available to Orissa Government to fight drought condition in the State both in rural and urban areas separately;

(b) the amount spent so far; and

(c) the number of tubewells sunk in the drought affected areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Ceilings of expenditure of Rs. 59.42 crores has been approved for drought relief in the rural and urban areas of Orissa on account of post-monsoon drought of 1987.

(b) The State Government reported an expenditure of Rs. 12.46 crores as on the 31st December, 1987.

(c) The State Government installed 1250 handpumps tubewells by 31.1.1988.