

(c) if not, when such a strategy would be evolved ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). No specific strategy has been advised for the Palamau District but a Centre for Dry Farming Research is located since 1971 in Kanke in Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad. This centre has generated research information with regard to crop introduction, crop improvement, improved farm machinery for tillage, seeding and fertilizer application use of fertilizers and plant protection, chemicals, soil and moisture conservation measures and planning for aberrant weather. These findings are equally applicable to Palamau District.

A beginning has also been made by arranging Orientation Training for dryland farmers at Daltongang on dry farming techniques. Also a watershed of 2258 ha has been selected at Gurustinala, 10 km away from Daltongang in 1984, where soil and moisture conservation measures and package of practices of dry farming techniques will be demonstrated.

Assistance to Coconut Growers

56. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coconut Board has any new scheme for extending the areas of coconut cultivation and provide assistance to the growers to maximise production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Coconut Development Board is implementing seven

schemes for extending the area of coconut cultivation and for providing assistance to the growers to maximise production. These schemes are (1) Project for extension of area under coconut in 12 States and 3 Union Territories. (2) Coconut plantation on canal embankment in Orissa. (3) Coconut plantation on khas land in Tripura. (4) Production of quality coconut seedlings at the headquarters of the Coconut Development Board and in Karnataka. (5) Establishment of hybrid seed garden in Tamil Nadu and 12 pilot hybrid testing centres. (6) Providing financial assistance to coconut growers for removal of root-wilt affected coconut palms in Kerala and (7) Providing assistance for irrigation facilities to coconut growers in six States. The total cost of these projects is Rs. 1478.784 lakhs. Besides, two new schemes have been proposed by the Coconut Development Board for implementing during Seventh Plan with an estimated outlay of Rs. 529.86 lakh. These are—(1) Establishment of demonstration-cum-seed Production Farms for Coconuts in States; and (2) Establishment of Field Publicity Unit. These Projects are under examination.

Completion of Irrigation Projects in Kerala

57. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of major and medium irrigation projects which are pending completion in Kerala;

(b) the total irrigation potential that will be added on the completion of these projects; and

(c) by what time these will be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c). The required information is given below ;