

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No such proposal has been finalised so far.

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Excavation work at Shrangverpur

7264. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether excavation work at Shrangverpur in Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh has been undertaken by the Department of Archaeology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to declare Shrangverpur a place of tourist interest in view of its religious importance; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be declared a tourist place?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P.V. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The excavation at Shrangverpura were undertaken by Archaeological Survey of India jointly with Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Simla between the year 1976-77 to 1985-86. The excavation revealed 200 meters long tank of kiln-fired bricks besides antiquities like coins, terracotta figurines, copper vessel and pottery.

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

[English]

Assistance for Desert Development Programme

7265. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to grant special assistance for the speedy development of desert areas of the country;

(b) if so, the extent thereof and when it is likely to be given;

(c) the amount provided and actually released during the Seventh Five Year Plan period so far;

(d) whether the amount released is sufficient for development of desert areas of the country; and

(e) if not, the steps taken for the release of sufficient funds for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (e). For a speedy development of the desert areas of the country, the Desert Development Programme (DDP) is already under implementation since 1977-78. During the 7th Plan, an outlay of Rs. 245 crores has been provided for it, out of which Rs. 166.65 crores have been released so far. Yearly allocations have been made keeping in view the capabilities of the implementing states in utilising funds already released in a meaningful manner and overall availability of resources of the Plan. Moreover, this programme aims at providing only an additionality of the sectoral developmental activities of the State Governments in these areas.