

Work on the preparation of resources inventories has been undertaken by the Water Technology Centre (WTC) of Indian Agricultural Research Institute and the concerned agricultural universities in the following 10 districts:—

1. Cannanore (WTC)
2. Mahboobnagar (WTC)
3. Wardha (WTC)
4. Hissar
5. Dharmapuri
6. Hoshiarpur
7. Tumkur
8. Banswara
9. Tehri-Garhwal
10. Bankura.

However, without waiting for the final project report as emerging from an integrated resources inventory, a start is being made by taking up selected programmes which would obviously find place in any scheme of integrated rural development for the area.

(b) and (c). Yes Sir. The Project approach is based on Gandhian principles for rural development and would utilize the Scientific and Technological advances. The approach paper on the Integrated Rural Development programme has emphasised that improvement in the quality of life, employment and purchasing power of the most under-privileged sections of the rural community will be the sole criterion in programme formulation and implementation. Thus, the principle of "Antyodaya" will serve to determine priorities under the I.R.D. programme.

The main thrust of the programme will be directed towards meeting the needs of the following under-privileged sections of the rural community, viz., landless labour, marginal farmers, artisans, women and children. Additional employment opportunities are to be generated through purposive in-

puts of science and technology with the emphasis on low cost, relevant and small scale technology based in turn on sound principles of ecology and economics. The programmes will cover the sectors of agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, fisheries, piggery, poultry, etc., and also lay much emphasis on small and village industries particularly with a view to improving the lot of the rural artisans and generating self-employment in rural areas. The I.R.D. programme is intended to serve as a catalyst for achieving self-propelling and self-replicating growth with the direct participation of the rural community.

Transport Contracts given by F.C.I.

20. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Transport contracts have been given by the F.C.I. without calling for tenders;

(b) if so, the number of such contracts; and

(c) steps taken against officials for such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL): (a) to (c). The F.C.I. have reported that transport contracts were awarded without calling for tenders in two cases only. In one of these cases, stocks were required to be moved on emergency basis and trucks were engaged by F.C.I. from Truck Union at the Union/State Government approved rates. The second case pertains to F. C. I. depots at Jullundur (Punjab) where transport arrangements for carrying out day to day transport work were made in absence of the contractor during January, 1977. This second case is under investigation.