

(b) if so, when Government propose to take action in the matter and the time by which such action is proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b). The President of the Kamraj College Tuticorin has in a memorandum dated 20-4-77 represented that there is scope for upgrading of the college into a National Memorial for late Shri Kamraj by providing work-oriented courses. The memorandum is under examination.

Talks with Director-General Food and Agriculture Organization

50. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, a specialised agency of the U.N., visited India recently and held talks with the Governmental leaders and officials at Delhi; and

(b) if so, gist thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) The representatives of the Government of India discussed with the Director-General of the FAO, the global food and agricultural situation in general and the role of the FAO with particular reference to India. The following main topics were discussed in particular:—

- (i) The role of the FAO in stimulating further multilateral and bilateral assistance for increasing food production in the developing countries and for

ensuring that production level is stepped up atleast to an average annual growth rate of 4 per cent as recommended by the World Food Conference.

- (ii) Enlarging the scope of food aid under the World Food Programme to cover improvement of nutritional standards, livestock development programmes and coverage of new commodities like edible oils, dairy products etc. in addition to aid in the shape of food-grains.
- (iii) Utilisation of the special fund of \$ 20.00 million proposed to be created by the FAO in order to reduce post-harvest losses, by the developing countries, including India.
- (iv) Utilisation of \$ 18.5 million Technical Cooperation Programme Fund created by the FAO, by the developing countries, including India.
- (v) Upgrading of the Country Office of the FAO in India to provide for high level experts, in keeping with India's requirements, for technical advice.
- (vi) FAO's role in Livestock development and Animal Husbandry Programme.
- (vii) Allotment of 12,500 tonnes of wheat under the World Food Programme for Emergency Food for Work Project in Orissa, to provide employment and relief to the people who were affected by serious drought in 1975.

Crop Insurance

51. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have introduced crop insurance anywhere in the country; and

(b) if so, names of States where the scheme has been introduced and the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL): (a) The Government of India did not introduce any crop insurance scheme; however, as sug-

gested by Government, the General Insurance Corporation of India introduced experimental crop insurance schemes in 1973 in a few States for a few selected crops on a voluntary basis.

(b) Results, achieved in the implementation of experimental crop insurance schemes are as under:—

States	Crop	Premium	Claims
Gujarat	Cotton	59,755	11,01,667
	Groundnut	1,17,133	19,86,206
Maharashtra	Cotton	32,171	70,872
	Wheat	17,390	5,830
Tamil Nadu	Cotton	30,656	19,547
Andhra Pradesh	Cotton	14,391	Nil.
	Groundnut	42,982	3,63,966
Karnataka	Cotton	18,576	55,030
West Bengal	Potato	5,426	2,735

The experimental crop insurance schemes which were introduced in the States mentioned above were gradually discontinued as the pattern was found to be uneconomical and unsuitable for implementation on a large scale.

National grid of Irrigation

52. SHRI SANTOSHRAO GODE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for National Grid of Irrigation is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, what will be the total investment on this project;

(c) what will be the total manpower required; and whether this will be useful to remove unemployment problem; and

(d) within how many years this project will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL): (a) to (d). An integrated system of irrigation is considered necessary in view of deficient and unevenly distributed rainfall in the country. However, before investigations for such long-term scheme are taken up it is essential to first study, in depth, the position of surpluses and shortages in various basins, sub-basins and regions, and determine possibilities for inter-basin and inter-regional transfer of waters taking into consideration the minimum needs of drought prone areas. Such a study is in hand by the Central Water Commission.

The studies and investigations are, in their nature, long-term. It is difficult to set a definite time frame at this stage for completion of this task.