

**Completion of Seven Major Irrigation Projects in Kerala**

3863. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala will be self-sufficient in rice if the seven major irrigation projects are completed;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in completing the projects; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite and complete the projects?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Supply of rice to Kerala during 1975 and 1976 was 5.10 lakh tonnes and 8.98 lakh tonnes respectively, and that during January to May, 1977 was 5.82 lakh tonnes. It has been assessed that completion of the seven major projects will increase the rice production in the State by about 4.0 lakh tonnes annually. This will not therefore make the State self-sufficient in rice.

(b) The delay in the early completion of these projects has been mainly due to the inadequacy of funds, resulting in increase in project costs. In case of Periyar project there was considerable change in scope.

(c) The State Government are providing larger outlays for the irrigation sector since the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan. As against the outlay of Rs. 27 crores during the Fourth Plan, the outlay tentatively proposed in the Fifth Plan is about Rs. 81 crores. An advance Plan assistance of Rs. 2.10 crores and Rs. 2.50 crores was provided by the Centre during 1975-76 and 1976-77 respectively to accelerate the progress on some of these on going major projects.

**Kosi Canal System**

3864. SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Will the minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large scale silting has taken place throughout the Kosi Canal system and that lands have been rendered infertile and unfit for cultivation in the Purnea District of Bihar;

(b) was the problem anticipated and technically investigated at the time of designing and constructing the Canals;

(c) if so, the precautions, if any were taken, and why were they eventually found inadequate in meeting the problem;

(d) what are the steps now contemplated to remedy the situation; and

(e) will Government take effective steps on a high priority basis, to prevent the menace before extending the canals to the adjacent districts?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a). Some difficulties are being experienced on the Eastern Kosi Canal system on account of the heavy silt content of the Kosi waters.

The State Government have informed that they have not received any report that the canal system has become ineffective and the lands have been rendered infertile and unfit for cultivation in the Purnea district on this account. On the other hand, there is considerable demand for irrigation water in the district in the Kharif season.

(c) and (d). Provision was made in the project for construction of divide walls, undersluices silt excluder tunnels and silt ejector in the Eastern Kosi Canal for elimination of silt from the water that eventually flows down in the canal. Subsequently the upstream left guide bund of the barrage has also been remodelled on the

basis of model experiments for more effective exclusion of silt. Modified operations of barrage and the canals have also been drawn up for reducing the problem of silting.

In recent years, the side slopes of the main canal have been pitched with boulders for improving the capacity for carrying silt and this has rendered tangible beneficial effect. As a result of improvements undertaken, the silt deposits in the canals have now reduced in the recent years.

(e) The Government of Bihar have stated that there is no programme at present to extend irrigation facilities to any other district from the Eastern Kosi Canal system.

#### Development of Agriculture in Backward States

3865. SHRI S. KUNDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any schemes to develop agriculture in the backward States for the small and medium peasants;

(b) if so, broad outlines of it; and

(c) how many of such schemes have been sanctioned for the States like Orissa, Assam, Punjab, Maharashtra and Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The Government of India have initiated Central Sector Schemes of Small Farmers' Development Agency (SFDA) and Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) which are extending benefits to weaker sections like small/marginal farmers and agricultural labourers in the selected areas. Under a Centrally sponsored Scheme, Pilot Projects for Integrated Dry Land Agricultural Development have also been taken up in different States. There are no special programmes exclusively for medium peasants.

(b) Details of these schemes are available in the reports for 1976-77 of the Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development which had been placed on the Table of the House.

(c) The following is the number of projects under implementation in five States:—

State	No. of Projects		
	SFDA	DPAP	Dry Land Pilot Projects
1 Orissa	7	2	1
2 Assam	4	..	..
3 Punjab	4	..	..
4 Maharashtra	13	6	2
5 Bihar	22	4	1

#### Shortage of Raw Jute

3866. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the acute shortage of raw jute in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it is due to lack of the production of raw jute in the country; and

(d) if so, the action thereon?

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

(b) and (c). The shortage in the availability of raw jute is due to low production of raw jute during the last two years and also due to increased mill consumption during these years which resulted in lesser carry-over of raw jute stocks.

(d) Besides the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of