

(b) For all State Plan scheme, including drinking water supply scheme, central assistance is given in the form of block loans and block grants. However, during the current year a new Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme has been launched for providing drinking water to problem villages. Under this programme 100 per cent Central assistance is being given to States during 1977-78 for completion of the on-going projects of drinking water supply to problem villages.

A sum of Rs. 200.00 lakhs has been allocated to the Government of Madhya Pradesh under this programme during the current financial year, and an amount of Rs. 50 lakhs has also been allocated to the State in addition to Rs. 200 lakhs for tribal areas. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 52.80 lakhs has been released as the first instalment of Central grant to that State.

Irrigation Project on AUNG River

2. SHRI GANANATH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to start an Irrigation Project on the "AUNG" river near CHIROLI, District Sambalpur, Orissa State; and

(b) if so, the total area which will be covered by the project, funds sanctioned for that and the date of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) No such project report has so far been received in the Central Water Commission from the Government of Orissa.

(b) Does not arise.

Damage to Coconut Cultivation in Kerala

3. SHRI SKARIAH THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the widespread damage to coconut cultivation in Kuttanadu in Kerala; and

(b) if so, efforts being made by Government to save the cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government are aware of the widespread damage to coconut cultivation in Kuttanadu area in Kerala as well as in other parts of the State.

(b) The damage is largely caused by the Rootwilt disease and also in part by Leaf Rot disease of coconut. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rejuvenation of diseased and unproductive coconut plantations has been implemented from 1977-78. Diseased and unproductive coconut palms are replaced with relatively more tolerant hybrid seedlings. The hybrid seedlings, fertilisers, soil ameliorants and plant protection chemicals are supplied to farmers at 50 per cent subsidy.

The State Government also has a programme to check further spread of Leaf Rot disease by giving protective sprays twice a year in selected areas free of cost.

Inclusion of S.C./S.T. Candidates in Tour Sponsored by Indian Council for Child Welfare

4. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council for Child Welfare under their sponsorship study tour and seminar schemes has at any time sponsored any candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and