

(b) the reasons for delay in sanction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Four major irrigation projects of Andhra Pradesh are pending clearance by the Planning Commission. Two of these viz., Taliperu Project and Yeleru Project are new schemes and would provide irrigation benefit to 57000 ha. The other two Projects are for modernisation of Krishna Delta System (CCA 4.90 lakh ha.) and Kurnool Ouddapah System (CCA 1.12 lakh ha.) which would improve the water efficiency of these systems, besides increase of annual irrigation by 14160 ha. under Kurnool Cuddapah Canal. Project for Poonhampad Stage II which was received from the State Government earlier is to be modified by them in accordance with the inter-State agreement on Godavari waters reached in December, 1975.

(b) Comments on Yeleru Project, and Modernisation of Krishna Delta System have been sent by the Central Water Commission to the State Government and their replies are awaited. In regard to Modernisation of Kurnool Cuddapah Canal, some clarifications have been sought by Central Water Commission and reply of State Government has not been received as yet.

With regard to Taliperu Project, the State Government have been advised to revise the cropping pattern as suggested by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission. The reply of the State Government is awaited.

#### Participation in Rural Development

1056. SHRI P. THIAGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete steps taken by the present Government to organise, direct and implement meaningful measures for rural development during the last seven months;

(b) the positive and pragmatic steps taken to mobilise the efforts of industries to participate with social responsibility in rural development; and

(c) the prospects of multiple efforts by channelising the energies of Youth and Student Organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) The concrete steps taken by the present government for rural development during the last seven months include the following:—

(i) For increasing and stabilising agricultural production it has been decided that an additional area of 17 million hectares should be brought under irrigation in the course of the next five years. Out of this, 9 million hectares will be under minor irrigation. This programme will also generate a good deal of employment opportunities due to better farming practices and multiple cropping in the irrigated areas.

(ii) Plans are being drawn up for doubling the quantum of rural credit available to farmers within the next three years.

(iii) An amount of Rs. 20 crores has been allocated for the construction of rural link roads in order to strengthen the rural infrastructure. Of this, a sum of Rs. 9.25 crores already stands released to States/Union Territories, who have also gone

ahead with the preparation of designs and estimates of such roads.

(iv) Another amount of Rs. 40 crores has been allocated for drinking water supply in the rural areas. Of this, a sum of Rs. 36 crores already stands released to States/Union Territories. The remaining sum of Rs. 4 crores is to be utilised for the purchase of rigs for drilling in hard-rock areas.

(v) An integrated programme for development of rural areas is under preparation. The objective of the scheme is to ensure full employment in the rural areas through productive programmes covering the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, pisciculture, cottage and small industries, etc.

(vi) A desert development programme with an outlay of Rs. 6.10 crores for the current year has been started this year. The programme covers 16 districts in the hot arid zone of Rajasthan, Haryana and Gujarat and the cold-arid zone of Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir and Spiti region of Lahul and Spiti Districts in Himachal Pradesh.

(vii) A new scheme for development of rural markets at the primary level and in the backward areas like drought prone areas and tribal areas with an outlay of Rs. 200 lakhs for 1977-78 has been started.

(b) A positive incentive offered to industries for the mobilisation of their participation in the programmes of rural development is that the expenditure incurred by them on programmes of rural development, duly approved by the prescribed authority, will be exempted from income tax. In response, already 15 projects for rural development have been received from industrial/mercantile houses.

(c) It is proposed to give an important role to non-official organisations, including youth clubs, mahila mandals, etc., in the integrated rural development programme.

#### Levy Sugar to consumers

1057. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that quantum of levy sugar to consumers varies from State to State; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The State-wise monthly quotas are fixed on the basis of population and past consumption pattern. Since the consumption pattern varies from State to State having regard to the local conditions and dietary habits of the people, State Governments were advised to decide the scale of distribution of levy sugar having regard to these conditions and subject to the general guidelines that no individual should get less than 300 gms. nor more than 1 kg. per month. However, in accordance with the recent decision of Government the State-wise monthly levy sugar quotas to be allotted from December, 77 onwards are being revised and refixed on the basis of population which will ensure minimum per capita availability of 425 grams per month in various States/Union Territories.

The State Governments have also been requested to treat rural and urban population in a similar manner in the matter of distribution.