

Percentage of Land under Desert of Ahmednagar and Sholapur (Maharashtra), Jodhpur and Nagpur (Rajasthan)

1696 SHRI N K SHEJWALKER

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state

(a) the percentage of the land in the country affected by the desert, and

(b) the special measures taken to make it fertile during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) (a)

The Indian desert occupies an area of 32 lakhs Sq Kms of hot desert mostly in Rajasthan Gujarat Haryana and Karnataka and 07 lakhs Sq Kms of cold desert in Ladakh (J&K) The hot desert is spread over Rajasthan (61 per cent) Gujarat (20 per cent), Punjab and Haryana (9 per cent) and in small pockets (10 per cent) in Maharashtra Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

(b) (i) The Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur which was established in 1959 is undertaking intensive research to work out the scientific technology for increasing agricultural production in the desert areas of the country

(ii) During the Fifth Five Year Plan the Government of India is implementing a Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) for economic betterment of these areas The Fifth Plan allocation for this programme is Rs 181.50 crores a Desert Development Programme has also been initiated from the current year (1976-77). This year's outlay for this programme is Rs 610 crores

In the DPAP the World Bank is also providing a total assistance of 35 million dollars for financing six projects namely, Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh), Bijapur (Karnataka),

(iii) Rajasthan Canal is under way which will irrigate 114 million Ha by gravity irrigation and 51000 Ha by lift canal in the districts of Ganganagar Bikaner and Jaisalmer

(iv) Report of the National Commission on Agriculture 'Desert Development' is under consideration of the Central and State Governments for implementation in the next Five Year Plan

Master Plan for Irrigation prepared by State in consultation with Centre

1697 SHRI AHMED M PATEL
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state

(a) whether any State Government with the consultation of the Central Government have prepared their Master Plan in respect of irrigation in their State,

(b) if so which are those States and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) (a) to (c) Some States have prepared outline of possible future development of irrigation in their territory Detailed Master Plans identifying the schemes for tapping the entire utilisable water potential their interse priorities for future development etc have however, not been prepared in consultation with the Central Government

Setting up of Sport Training Institute at Dharmasala

1698 SHRI M A HANNAN
ALHAJ

SHRI DURGA CHAND

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state