

assessment of water resources of rivers flowing into the Arabian sea and their utilisation.

(c) Further steps to be taken in this matter will be considered on receipt of the reports.

### Revamping of Technical Education

86. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are alive to the immediate need of revamping technical education so as to be of relevance to the immediate needs of the country;

(b) if so, the precise and positive steps taken to effect meaningful changes in the existing stream of technical education; and

(c) the period by which such steps are expected to be implemented throughout India?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) The system of Technical Education which has been developed in the country has provided the trained manpower, both in terms of number and skill, to meet the development needs of the country. Improvement of the system is, however, a continuous process to which the required attention is being given by the Government.

(b) A Working Group on Technical Education was appointed recently by the Government to review critically the present status of technical education at all levels and to suggest re-orientation and improvements to the existing programmes. The Working Group has made a number of important recommendations relevant to both the immediate and long range needs of the country. The recommendations broadly pertain to supply of adequate Technical Manpower with-

out further expansion, measures for improvement of the present system of Technical Education, promotion of closer collaboration between Technical Institutions and Industry, Industrial Research, Rural Development and Community Services.

The recommendations of the Working Group have been endorsed by the All India Council for Technical Education.

(c) Necessary communications have been addressed to the various State Governments and the Union Territories with the request to expedite the implementation of these recommendations.

### Vocational Survey for introducing Vocational Courses

87. SHRI C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which district vocational surveys have been made with a view to introducing vocational courses;

(b) the extent of Central assistance given for such surveys and the amount actually utilised; and

(c) a resume of the actual courses selected so far throughout India for the 10+2 pattern of education, indicating the order of popularity for the courses?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b). Under the Centrally sponsored scheme of financial assistance to States for vocationalisation of higher secondary education, grants-in-aid amounting to Rs. 6,97,500 have been released for the conduct of vocational surveys in the States of Assam, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa,

Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Tripura. Information about the extent of actual utilisation of funds is not available.

(c) A variety of vocational courses in the areas of commerce, agriculture, para-medical and technical trades, etc., have been selected under the vocational spectrum at +2 level. The courses are selected keeping in view the socio-economic needs of the area and their popularity depends on the demand of the local employment market. However, in the big cities the rush to technical, commerce and para-medical courses is high. But in rural institutions agriculture and commerce are more popular.

#### **Changes in Integrated Rural Development Programme**

88. SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the precise changes made in the scheme of Integrated Rural Development by the present Government as compared to that of the former Government;

(b) the amount proposed to be spent, the amount actually spent and the concrete plans formulated for each sector of activity under this scheme; and

(c) the extent to which the benefits of modern science and technology have been brought into play for meaningful implementation of the scheme and ensuing rapid progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) The present Government has restructured the IRD programme. The earlier programme involved preparation of Resources Inventories, Malady-remedy, analysis and Action Plans which was a time consuming process. The new programme has laid down clearly defined objectives of growth

and full employment through productive programmes within a certain time frame. The main focus now is on reaching the benefits of development to the identified target groups in the disadvantaged sections of the rural community. The new strategy is based on decentralised micro-level planning at the block level. For this purpose, 2000 blocks out of about 3000 blocks covered by special programme of SEDA, DPAP and CAD are to be intensively developed. In addition, 300 new blocks out of blocks not covered under the present special programmes will be taken up every year for the coming five years. Thus, 3500 blocks will be developed within the present 5-year Plan.

A list of specific programmes which will be eligible for assistance has been formulated and communicated to State Governments. Voluntary agencies will also be actively involved in preparation and implementation of Block level plans.

All these features distinguish the present programme from the old one.

(b) The State Governments and Union Territories have been allotted 2000 blocks on a *pro-rata* basis, which are presently, covered under the three major on-going rural development programmes of SFDA, DPAP and CADA. The block selected under SFDA and CADA will receive central assistance @ Rs. 5 lakhs per block, for DPAP blocks the central assistance will be @ Rs. 4 lakhs per block while the State Government will provide Rs. 1 lakh for each DPAP block. This assistance will be over and above the present level of funding in these blocks. As the programme has been initiated recently, information regarding actual expenditure is not available. Detailed guidelines for Intensive development of blocks indicating various schemes that can be taken up under each sector of activity have been issued to the State Governments and Union Territories. The maximum emphasis under the new programme will be on individual