

employees in respect of payment of gratuity, pension encashment of leave and even refund of Provident Fund;

(b) the number of cases wherein all formalities have been complied with and 'No-demand' certificate furnished which were pending for payment with the D.M.S. as on 1st December, 1978;

(c) the steps being taken by the D.M.S. to make payment of all such dues without any delay; and

(d) whether necessary instructions would be issued to the D.M.S. to pay all the settlement dues to its retired employees within the time-schedule laid down by Government in this behalf and thus obviate any harassment being caused to them?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARWALA): (a) Normally, the claims of the retired employees are settled immediately they retire from Government service.

(b) Six such cases were pending on 1-12-1978.

(c) In two cases, approval of the UPSC to the continuance in the higher posts is awaited. The matter is being pursued demi-officially with the Commission. One case is pending for want of vigilance clearance and efforts are being made to expedite the same. Remaining cases are being processed and are expected to be finalised shortly.

(d) Necessary instructions have already been issued by the Government for timely settlement of all the dues of the retired employees.

**Merger of Scientific and Statistical cadres of Department of Irrigation with Central Water Commission**

3933. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Scientific and Statistical Cadres of

Department of Irrigation are being merged with Central Water Commission;

(b) whether the nature of duties, qualifications and recruitment rules etc. of the merged cadres are similar; and

(c) if not, what criteria have Government adopted for merger?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (c). There were a number of small technical cadres in the Department of Irrigation and organisations under it like the Ganga Basin Water Resources Organisation. It was decided to merge these small technical cadres, both gazetted and non-gazetted, with the corresponding technical cadres of the Central Water Commission, in order that these may become viable and with a view to afford larger opportunities for promotion to the concerned officers/staff, and improve the manpower availability for manning these posts. As a part of this decision, the small statistical cadres of the Departmental of Irrigation have also been merged with the corresponding cadres of the Central Water Commission. After the merger, the officers/staff borne on the erstwhile small statistical cadres of the Department of Irrigation have been brought on the integrated seniority lists of the Central Water Commission.

No scientific posts are sanctioned in the Secretariat of the Department of Irrigation.

(b) The nature of duties and qualifications required for statistical posts both in the Department of Irrigation and the Central Water Commission are similar. The Recruitment Rules for the posts in the Department of Irrigation before the merger differed in some respects from the Recruitment Rules for similar posts in the Central Water Commission. After the merger of these statistical posts in the Department of Irrigation with the corresponding cadres of the Central Water Commission,

recruitment thereto will be made in accordance with the Recruitment Rules operative for these posts in the Central Water Commission.

**Aid from U.S. International Development Agency for Agriculture**

3934. SHRI A. ASOKARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. Agency for International Development has offered any help to our country in the field of agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The US AID has made the following proposals for collaboration between the two countries in the field of agricultural research, education and extension activities:

(i) Bilateral technical assistance called "Agricultural Research and Education Project."

(ii) Multinational collaborative Research Support Programme which US AID has started in conjunction with their own Agricultural Universities under Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act.

The above mentioned proposals are still in the preliminary consideration stage of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) and no decisions have yet been arrived at.

**Central team to Tamil Nadu**

3935. SHRI A. ASOKARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request to depute a central study team to study the flood damage has been received from the Tamil Nadu Government; and

(b) if so, the decision of the Government on it?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). On a request received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu, a Central Study Team visited the State from 24.11.78 to 27.11.78 to study the damage due to floods. The report of the Team will be finalised very soon. The recommendations of the Central Team will thereafter be placed before the High-Level Committee on Relief. The decision of the Government will be taken on the basis of the recommendation of the High Level Committee.

**Housing Loans to Orissa**

3936. SHRI PABITRA MOHAN PRADHAN: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money that has been provided for housing purposes in the State of Orissa for the last five years barring the present financial year; and

(b) whether the said provision has been fully spent or not, if not the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SEKANDAR BAKHT): (a) Central financial assistance is released to the States in the shape of 'block loans' and 'block grants' for their Annual Plans as a whole and not for any specific scheme, project or sector of development. The State Government of Orissa have provided Rs. 5,99,48,000 for housing purposes during the last five years. Out of this, Rs. 5,53,32,000 were spent.

(b) The amount could not be utilised fully because the loanees did not turn up to avail of their subsequent instalments.