

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 utilized fully because the loanees did not turn up to avail of their subsequent instalments.