

Conservation of land during VI Plan

1844. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Soil and Water Conservation Research Institute has prepared a blue print for the conservation of 9.9 million hectares of land during the Sixth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the involvement of outlay, the utilisation of semi-arid and red soil for raising Kharif crops?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Dharna by employees of F.C.I.

1845. SHRI BHAUSAHEB THORAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Food Corporation of India are staging "Dharna" outside his residence since November/December, 1978, to press for their demands; and

(b) if so, what are their demands, and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Sometime ago some of the contractors' labourers, backed by the FCI Workers' Union, were staging a "DHARNA" outside the residence of the Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation, which has since been given up.

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(b) The demand was for departmentalisation of labour. The Food Corporation of India adopt such system for the handling and clearing of foodgrains etc. as is considered to be most efficient and economical. A large number of Storage Depots are hired by the Food Corporation of India. This question has much wider policy as well as financial implications and has to be considered carefully before a decision can be taken.

Delay in execution of Warna Project

1847. SHRI ANNASAHEB GOKHINDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the execution of Warna Project in Maharashtra State is being delayed for want of funds;

(b) what is the schedule of the completion of this project and whether the same is being rigidly followed; and

(c) will the Government ensure that the project which is already inordinately delayed, is not dilly-dallied on any pretext?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNAL): (a) Against a budget provision of Rs. 450 lakhs, the State had spent over Rs. 513 lakhs upto December, 1978.

(b) and (c). The State Government has intimated that it is proposed to complete the work on the dam by 1985-86. The State Government is taking suitable steps to expedite the project.