

traditional varietal and price difference between them.

**Working Group on Irrigation programme**

1870. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:

SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a massive outlay of Rs. 8200 crores is required for the creation of the proposed additional potential of irrigating eight million hectare during the sixth plan;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry had set up a working group to determine the size of the irrigation programme for the plan period;

(c) if so, whether they have submitted their report; and

(d) what are the other recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (c). The Working Group constituted by the Department of Irrigation to formulate the programme for major and medium irrigation during the Medium Term Plan (1979—83) has assessed the requirement of funds at Rs. 8,200 crores for a target of creation of additional irrigation potential of 8 million hectares.

(d) The Working Group has suggested a two-pronged strategy as under:—

(i) Creation of additional irrigation potential by completing on-going and new projects.

(ii) Effecting more efficient use of waters available in the existing irrigation systems.

For creation of additional potential the Working Group has suggested devotion of maximum effort on com-

pletion of on-going schemes. Simultaneously, it has recommended taking up of new schemes within the national perspective of irrigation development, with high priority to schemes in drought prone, backward and tribal areas. To have adequate pipeline of well investigated projects for execution, strengthening of investigation organisations and formulation of a time-bound programmes for investigation of new schemes has been suggested. The need for stepping up the operational efficiency of existing irrigation systems has been stressed by the Working Group. Referring to the considerable wastage of water in the existing systems, which causes problem of water logging and drainage congestion, paucity of water in tail end areas of systems and gross under utilisation of created irrigation potential on several projects, the Group has suggested improvement and modernisation of these systems, including lining the channels where necessary, in a phased manner in the next 15 years. The Working Group has suggested earmarking of substantial outlays for the modernisation programme. The Working Group has also stressed the need for finalisation of detailed programmes for next five years; identification of new schemes including modernisation schemes; preparation of irrigation sub-plans for backward, tribal hilly and other high priority areas; strengthening investigation organisations and improving the quality of investigation; preparation of details works programme, spelling out quarterly/year-wise physical and financial targets and requirements of materials, labour and equipment for each major item of work; strengthening of construction organisations and streamlining administrative procedures; establishment of cost control cells and monitoring units; and preparation of annual operation programmes for major systems to optimise the benefits; evaluation of project performance; and provision of adequate funds for operation and maintenance; and the preparation of detailed plans for water resources development in each State.