

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (d). During the current year, one meeting of the Commission has taken place so far.

The Commission has before it various matters such as the long-term scheme for augmentation of Ganga flows, and issues regarding Tista waters and Khowai waters, and flood control/erosion problems on border and common rivers. Agreement has already been reached on several flood control/erosion problems including the Karimganj/Zakiganj reach on the Kushiyara river. Consensus has been reached on the few aspects of the other issues and efforts continue to be made to narrow the differences on the remaining aspects and evolve mutually acceptable proposals.

Observations made by P.M. in Connection with Garland Canal Scheme

115. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 5661 on 2nd April, 1979 regarding observations made by the Prime Minister in connection with Garland Canal Scheme and state:

(a) the full facts regarding the four expert Committees set up by the Planning Commission;

(b) whether the expert Committees have so far been able to produce any report;

(c) if so, the salient features of the report; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJEET SINGH BARNALA): (a) The full facts regarding the four ex-

pert's Committees set up by the Planning Commission are given in Annexure I to IV. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-4584/79.*]

(b) The Reports of these Committees are yet awaited.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Conference on "Women and Development"

116. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national conference was held in New Delhi in May last on the theme "Women and Development";

(b) if so, whether the Conference made a set of recommendations;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations; and

(d) action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI RENUKA DEVI BARAKATAKI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See LT-4585/79.*]

(d) Recommendations of the Conference are being examined for implementation by the various Central Ministries/Departments and other agencies concerned.

The recommendations relating to setting up of Women's Development Corporations in the States with part central funding and provision of Child care arrangements of a simple kind as part of the Revised Minimum Needs

Programme with full Central Funding have already been taken up with the Planning Commission for implementation.

Enrolment of Children in 6—14 Age Group

117. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the target of Government to enroll 90 per cent of the children in the age group of 6 to 14 years in classes I to VIII by 1982-83; and

(b) if so, what specific steps have since been taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI RENUKA DEVI BARAKATAKI): (a) Yes, Sir; according to the projections in the Interim Report of the Working Group on Universalisation of Elementary Education, the target of 90 per cent enrolment in age-group 6—14 by 1982-83 has been envisaged.

(b) The specific steps, mainly, are:—

(1) The entire 'elementary education' has been included in the Plan under the Revised Minimum Needs Programme.

(2) Universalisation of Elementary Education has been accorded the highest priority under the Plan in the field of education.

(3) Rs. 900 crore or 46 per cent of the total Sixth Plan budget for education have been allocated for elementary education, including Rs. 850 crore in the State sector and Rs. 50 crore in the Central sector.

(4) On the basis of the recommendations contained in the Interim Report of the Working Group on Universalisation of Elementary Education and the guidelines issued by

the Ministry of Education and Planning Commission and according to the policy-frame indicated in the resolutions on Universalisation of Elementary Education adopted by the Conferences of State Education Ministers held in August, 1977 and July, 1978, the States have prepared their master plans for universalisation of elementary education and their Sixth Plan proposals.

(5) Fourth All India Educational Survey has been undertaken with 30th September, 1978 as the reference date to collect the latest data required in the formulation of realistic plans and programmes of elementary education.

(6) A special scheme of "Experimental Projects for Non-formal Education for Children of 9—14 age-group for Universalisation of Elementary Education" has been taken up for implementation from 1979-80 in the educationally backward States with Rs. 50 crore as the provision in the Central budget for sixth Plan.

(7) Three innovative projects, namely, Primary Education Curriculum Renewal, Developmental Activities in Community Education and Participation and Comprehensive Access to Primary Education have been undertaken with UNICEF assistance for decentralising the elementary education curriculum relating it to the diverse needs and life situations of the children in various areas of the country; and

(8) A system of quarterly monitoring of attendance in primary and middle schools has been introduced from September, 1978 as an essential measure for the programme of universalisation.