

popularise the use of Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT) messages.

It has been decided that the ports of Bombay and Tuticorin would first develop software and implement Electronic Data Interchange system and other ports would adopt from them.

#### Drop-out Rate at Primary Level

1421. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) that drop-out rate of students at the primary level of education in the last three years;

(b) the break up in such cases between rural and urban areas and between male and female students; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to reduce the drop out rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b). The percentage of drop out of boys and girls at primary stage during the last three years for which the data is available, were as follows:

Classes I-V	Boys	Girls	Total
1991-92	41.0	45.2	42.8
1992-93	40.1	43.0	41.3
1993-94	35.0	38.0	36.3

Drop out data on rural-urban basis is not collected.

(c) The measures taken by Central and State Governments to reduce drop out rates include micro-planning and community mobilisation; greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions; setting up of village Education Committees; improvement of schools infrastructure through Operation Blackboard Scheme; incentives for girls and SC/ST students such as free text

books, uniforms and scholarships; establishing and strengthening of teacher education institutions; introduction of Minimum Levels of Learning (MLL) and implementation of the Mid-Day Meals Programme.

#### Pending Irrigation Projects of Orissa

1422. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :  
SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of irrigation projects of Orissa pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) since when these projects are pending alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Orissa have requested the Union Government for the early clearance of pending projects; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). A statement giving details of irrigation projects of Orissa pending clearance is attached.

(c) Yes, Sir. Deputy Chief Minister of Orissa has requested in August, 1995 for early clearance of pending irrigation projects of Orissa.

(d) At the time of correspondence with Dy. Chief Minister of Orissa in August, 1995, 4 major and 5 medium projects of Orissa were pending clearance. Out of them, 2 major projects namely Kanupur Barrage and Subernarekha Irrigation and 2 medium projects Bagh Barrage and Baghalati have since received investment clearance from the Planning Commission.

To expedite clearance of pending projects, the Central Water Commission holds periodical meetings with the State Governments official wherein the progress of compliance of observations on pending irrigation projects is reviewed. It has also set up Units at different places in the country for assisting the States in expeditious appraisal of irrigation projects.

#### STATEMENT

*Details of new major and medium irrigation projects of Orissa pending clearance*

S.No.	Name of Project	District benefitted	Estimated Cost (Rs. crores)	Ultimate Irrigation Potential	Date of receipt in CWC. (hectares)	Status of Techno-economic appraisal.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Major</b>						
1.	Rengali Irrigation Sub0Project LBC.II	-	705.15	93.500	2/96	The Project has been found acceptable by the Advisory Committee in 9/96 subject