

The programme generally covers provision of water supply to villages affected by drought, augmenting the capacity of urban schemes in towns affected by drought, constructions of new tubewells/deepening/cleaning of wells etc.

The Government of India have mobilised rigs from the various sources and made available 14 rigs to Uttar Pradesh and 9 rigs to Orissa. Besides, the Government of India is arranging rigs from indigenous manufacturers for supply to the various State Governments including the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Orissa.

The Prime Minister's Twelve-Point Programme also emphasises preparation and implementation of contingency plans for supply of water to the affected villages and initiating advance action for arranging tankers, trucks, drums barrels etc. The Railways have made arrangements for transport of water to the drought affected areas in Uttar Pradesh. The Ministry of Defence is also extending assistance to the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Orissa for transporting drinking water to the affected villages by supply of tankers, drums, barrels, canvas-tanks etc.

Buffer Stock of Foodgrains

1619. DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the buffer stock of foodgrains in March, 1977, July 1979 and at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): The total stock of foodgrains including the operational stocks with all the public agencies were as follows:—

(In Million Tonnes)

As on	Total Stocks
1-3-77	18.98
1-7-79	21.44
1-6-80	16.99*

(*) — Provisional.

Taking over of Sick Sugar Factories

1620. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision not to take over sick sugar factories;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the likely impact thereof on the economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir. Proposals for taking over the management of sugar mills both under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 and the Sugar Undertakings (Taking over of Management) Act, 1978 are considered on merits of each case.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Drinking Water for the Weaker Sections of Society

1621. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give special financial help to State Governments in general and Bihar and Delhi in particular to provide drinking water to the weaker sections of the society; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a): and (b). The Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme initiated to accelerate coverage of identified problem villages provides for 100 per cent grants to States and Union Territories including Bihar and Delhi in order to supplement their resources. Though no specific provision is made for providing water supply to the weaker sections of the society, the funds under the Programme are expected to benefit them also.