

identified the families eligible for assistance under the House Sites-cum-House Construction Assistance Scheme for Rural Landless Labour which is being implemented as a part of Minimum Needs Programme. According to the reports received from the State Governments upto 31-3-81, there were 1,24,61,407 eligible landless families in various States of whom 86,20,208 families had been given house-sites and 14,63,062 families provided house construction assistance upto that date.

Fertility of Cropland

3166. SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:

SHRI SANTOSH
MOHAN DEV:

SHRI MANPHOOL
SINGH CHAUDHARY:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that cropland fertility has been reduced drastically; and

(b) if so the reasons therefor and steps taken to maintain the present level of fertility of cropland ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION: (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI) : (a) and (b). (i) India is a vast country and at present the total cropped area is more than 175 million hectares. In absence of comprehensive data on fertility survey of such a vast area, it is not possible to conclude that the crop fertility status of different soil groups of the country has reduced drastically.

(ii) It has been reported that out of 328.78 million hectares of geographical area of the country about 44 per cent is severely affected by water and wind erosion. On account of this problem the top fertile soil is

affected to a great extent. However, the Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Dehradun and its regional centres located at Agra, Bellary, Vasad, Kota, Ootacamund and Chandigarh have developed technology for checking this menace of soil loss.

(iii) The problem of salt affected soils afflicts vast tracts in India to the extent of 7.00 million hectares. The physical condition of these soils is greatly impaired owing to the presence of excessive sodium. This affects the crop producing capacity of these soils. The Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal, has developed suitable soil reclamation technology for raising of crops with good yields on these soils. The package of technology has successfully been demonstrated in cultivators fields.

(iv) Major Nutrients need to produce the quintal of grain of high yielding variety of rice and wheat has been determined. Rice needs 1.78 Kg. nitrogen, 0.88 Kg P₂O₅ and 1.87 Kg. K₂O while that of wheat is 2.36 Kg. nitrogen, 0.82 Kg. P₂O₅ and 2.1 Kg. K₂O for every quintal of grain to be produced. In view of this the optimum and balanced use of fertilizers have always been recommended for sustained crop yields.

(v) The Government of India has also established 302 Soil Testing Laboratories in the country which are assisting the cultivators in getting their soils tested and apply the balanced quantity of fertilizers to different crops.

(vi) The long term field experiments conducted at many locations in the country have so far not indicated any drastic reduction in soil fertility level when crops are raised with balanced fertilisation. In view of this, steps have been taken to popularise application of recommended doses of fertilisers and balanced fertilisation. Use of adequate quantities of organic manure, compost and corrective measures for micronutrient deficiency, whenever observed, have been

recommended to the farmers. Inclusion of legumes in crop rotations has also been advocated to enrich the soil. In general it may be stated that the above recommended steps will continue to sustain the soil fertility in our crop land.

Survey Conducted on requirement of Drinking Water in States

3167. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey regarding the total requirement of drinking water in the various states ;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to augment the present water supply to meet the requirement ;

(c) whether any agreement has been effected with some neighbouring States ; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH) :

(a) and (b). Drinking water supply is a State subject and the total requirement of drinking water is assessed by State Governments. Steps for augmentation of water supply are also to be taken by the State Governments. During the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85), the outlay for the Water Supply and Sanitation sector has been stepped up considerably to Rs. 3922.02 crores as against Rs. 1030.68 crores in the Fifth Plan (1974-79).

(c) and (d). Presumably, this part of the question relates to the sharing of water of inter-state rivers. If so, such agreements generally cover the requirements of irrigation and are entered into as and when necessary.

Irrigation potential in Sixth Plan

3168. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a massive irrigation plan for development of irrigation potential in the country during the Sixth Five Year Plan ;

(b) If so, the details regarding the advice tendered by the Planning Commission for the approval of the Union Government, for the plan, State-wise ;

(c) the total outlay thereof ;

(d) what are the main features of the proposed plan ; and

(e) the details of the schedule for implementation Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The financial outlays and targets of additional potential accepted by the Planning Commission are given in Statement enclosed.

(d) The main features are as under :

(i) Expeditious completion of as many on going major schemes as technically and financially feasible completion of all on going medium schemes excepting some of them taken up during the last two or three years of the Plan which may spill over into Seventh Plan.

(ii) taking up work of modernisation of irrigation systems in a phased manner.

(iii) Optimisation of benefits through better operation of existing systems and conjunctive use of surface and ground waters and adoption of Warabandi.