

Enhanced Prices of Vegetables and Foodgrains

110. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of vegetables and foodgrains have shot up considerably during the last two months, and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The Economic Adviser's index of wholesale prices (with 1970-71-100 as base) registered the following changes from May to July, 1981:

Month	Foodgrains	Vegetables
May, 1981	230.5	173.7
June, 1981	233.6	171.5
July, 1981	239.7	202.7

The prices have mainly risen in July. This rise is partly seasonal and partly due to transport bottlenecks and increase in transport cost.

Tubewells sanctioned in Orissa with World Bank Assistance

111 SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of State tube wells sanctioned for small farmers in Orissa under the irrigation schemes financed with World Bank assistance;

(b) whether the funds under this programme are being spent through the Central Irrigation Department; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) So far as this Ministry is aware, there is no irrigation scheme for the construction of State Tube-wells for small farmers in Orissa, financed with the World Bank assistance.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

National Water Development Agency

112. SHRI R. L. BHATIA:

SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD:

SHRI JAI NARAIN ROAT:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry propose to set up a national water development agency to carry out surveys and investigations for inter-linking various rivers, creating optimum storage capacity for water, harnessing the waters which are now going waste and transferring the surplus flow for utilisation in deficit regions;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the proposal;

(c) when it is likely to be implemented, and

(d) the total capital outlay involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c). The Government of India have decided to constitute National Water Development Agency as a Society to be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 to undertake detailed surveys and investigations of the possible storage reservoir sites as well as inter-connecting links and to prepare feasibility reports in respect of the Peninsular Rivers Development Component of the National Perspective for Water Resources Development prepared by the Ministry of Irrigation and Central Water