

Government is not involved in purchase of any diesel or electric pump sets. The minor irrigation programme includes installation of the pumps by the State Governments including Corporations that may be working under them as well as by the farmers themselves with the help of institutional finances where necessary. At present, it is estimated that 7.1 million numbers pump sets have been installed, of which 2.8 million numbers are diesel operated and 4.3 million numbers are electrically operated. Several studies have been conducted on a sample basis by various agencies and institutions regarding deficiencies of the existing pump sets resulting in low operational efficiencies. Their findings can be summarised as under:—

(i) Improper selection and matching of the engines and pumps including those of foot valves, suction and delivery pipes etc.

(ii) Pumps-sets installations were not according to technical requirements.

(iii) Inadequate repairs and maintenance of pump-sets.

In order to assist the farmers in proper selection of pump-sets, the following measures have been taken by Ministry of Irrigation:

(i) The State Level Technical Committees have been set up to advise the farmers for the proper selection of pump-sets, pricing and their quality control. A loans are given to farmers for purchase of only those pump-sets which are on the approved list of the State Level Technical Committee. These Committees have been set up in all States except Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Sikkim and Tripura who are also being pursued to set up these Committees at the earliest.

(ii) A meeting was convened with the concerned Ministries and

Organisations in September, 1980 for evolving norms and standards to improve the efficiency of irrigation pump-sets to the maximum extent. In this regard guidelines for selection of agricultural pump-sets and code of practice with regard to selection, installation, operation and maintenance of pump-sets were circulated in December, 1980 to the various State Governments for implementing the same.

Drought Affected Places

130. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

SHRI DAULATSINHJI
JADEJA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places of drought affected areas from 1977 to 1981 upto-date; and

(b) the Central assistance given to them in that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION
(SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):
(a) Statement I showing the names of places of drought affected areas from 1977 to 1981 upto-date.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-2908/81.]

(b) Statement II showing the central assistance given to the drought affected States during the periods 1976-77 to 1981-82 (Pre-monsoon) as attached.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-2908/81.]

Cultivable Barren Land

131. SHRI VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantum of cultivable barren land in the country has