

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) to (c). Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. However, central assistance is given to supplement the resources of State Govts. to provide safe drinking water to identified problem villages. Safe drinking water can be provided through appropriate systems like sanitary wells, tube-wells, piped water supply, etc. The progress of the scheme is monitored in terms of the number of problem villages covered and not in terms of the systems by which the villages are covered. No targets in terms of wells accordingly set for the year 1981-82. However, 29,837 problem villages were provided drinking water facilities during the year 1981-82 in various States and Union Territories.

(d) The target for coverage of problem villages during the year 1982-83 announced by the Planning Commission was 35,292. According to reports received, 11,824 villages have been covered upto the end of the August, 1982.

Damage of Lands along Hill Slopes due in Shifting Cultivation

2381. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large hectares of land along the hill slopes are getting damaged due to shifting cultivation every year ;

(b) if so, the total hectares of land got affected in the State of Orissa due to the 'Podu' or shifting cultivation in last two years ;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to introduce some comprehensive programmes for prevention of shifting cultivation and saving the land ; and

(d) if so, the details about the financial assistance provided to Orissa for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The Government are aware of the damage caused by shifting cultivation. The total area affected thus in any one year is estimated to be nearly one million hectares of which Orissa is reported to account for nearly 0.529 million hectares. There has been no practice of annual assessment of area affected by shifting cultivation (locally called *Podu*). No such information therefore is available in respect of Orissa for the last two years.

(c) and (d). A Central Sector Scheme of Pilot Project for the Control of Shifting Cultivation was introduced in 1977-78 with cent per cent financial assistance by the Central Government. Orissa State was also included in the scheme and a sum of Rs. 20.596 lakhs was released in favour of Orissa, against a total amount of Rs. 53.726 lakhs released under the scheme upto 31-3-1979. According to the decision of the National Development Council, Central assistance to the States has been discontinued under the scheme, with effect from 1-4-1979, and the States are expected to tackle the problem of shifting cultivation from their own resources.

Training Programme for Specialists in Dry Farming Technology

2382. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has arranged special training programme for the specialists in dry farming technology ;

(b) whether the specialists will be provided such training through Agricultural Universities of different States ; and

(c) the details about the training programme proposed to be given to the specialists in dry land farming ?