

Brahmaputra Valley has been engaging the attention of both the State and the Central Government since long and flood control works in the form of new embankments, raising and strengthening of the existing embankments, improvement of drainage channels, sluices, town protection and anti-erosion works have been executed by the State Government. The Government of India is also providing 100 per cent loan assistance to the State Government for flood control works since 1974-75 and Rs. 87 crores loan assistance has been provided to the State Government upto March 1983.

Appreciating the magnitude of the flood problem of the Brahmaputra Valley, the Central Government has constituted the Brahmaputra Board in December 1981 in pursuance of the Brahmaputra Board Act of 1980. The main function of the Brahmaputra Board is to prepare Master Plan for controlling floods, bank erosion and improvement of drainage in the Brahmaputra Valley. Keeping regard to the development and utilisation of the water resources of Brahmaputra basin for irrigation, hydro-power, navigation and other beneficial purposes. The Board has already taken up in hand its assigned activities.

Requirement of Improved Varieties of Seeds

1216. SHRI R.P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated requirements of State Government for seeds of improved varieties during 1983-84 ; and

(b) the requirement of seeds by the State Governments and the production targets fixed by the National Seeds Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b) At the beginning of 1983-84, the State Governments tentatively indicated their requirements of quality/certified seeds at 48.52 lakh quintals. Since then the demand for seeds has gone up. The target for distri-

bution is, therefore, proposed to be increased to about 58 lakh quintals from the original target of about 51 lakh quintals. The National Seeds Corporation Ltd. have undertaken a production programme of certified seeds for about 10 lakh quintals during 1983-84.

Suspension of DDP in Kargil

1217. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Desert Development Programme was started in Leh and Kargil Districts in 1980 and it continued for three years before it was stopped for Kargil District except Zaskar ; and

(b) if so, the reasons for suspending the operation of the scheme in Kargil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI HARINATHA MISRA) : (a) and (b) The Desert Development Programme was started in the district of Ladakh during 1977-78. The district was later bifurcated into Leh and Kargil districts. The programme continued in these areas till 1981-82. From 1982-83 it was withdrawn from the 4 blocks of Kargil district (other than Zaskar block) on the recommendations of the Task Force on the Drought Prone Areas Programme and the Desert Development Programme. According to the Task Force these areas receive, on an average, annual rainfall of around 640 mms. and they have substantial vegetation as well as irrigation. They, therefore, cannot be said to be cold desert areas.

Completion of Talkale Deve and Hemavathy-Bhadra Dams

1218. SHRI K. MALLANNA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any report to the effect that Talkale Deve (an important component of the Saravathy