

Water Logging

1914. SHRI T.S. NEGI Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details and seriousness of water logging problem affecting agriculture productivity at present; and

(b) the steps to tackle this problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) The National Commission on Agriculture has reported that an area of about 6 million hectares is afflicted with the problem of waterlogging in the country. Out of this, about 3.4 million hectares is subject to surface flooding mostly in the States of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, U.P., Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The remaining area of 2.6 million hectares represents waterlogging due to rise in ground water table. A study of the effect of waterlogging on crop production has indicated that crops like cotton, maize, bajra during Kharif and gram and barley in rabi are affected to a considerable extent by waterlogging.

(b) The remedial measures adopted for tackling waterlogging problems are (i) Drainage of either surface or sub-surface or both to remove surplus water;

(ii) Lining of canals to prevent seepage and rise of water table;

(iii) Sinking of tubewells and utilising water for irrigation, thereby lowering water table and augmenting recharge of ground water;

(iv) Connecting, where possible, all high water table tracts with low water table tracks; and

(v) Adoption of proper crop management.

The Central Groundwater Board has proposed to take up studies on waterlogging in about 20 canal command areas for remedial measures during the 7th Five year Plan period.

More slums coming up in cities like Bombay and Bangalore

1915. SHRI T.R. SHAMANNA : Will

the minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that in recent years large number of new slums are coming up in cities like Bombay, Bangalore etc; and

(b) effective steps being taken to remove the slums and rehabilitate the slums dwellers with the cooperation of State Governments ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF) :

(a) and (b) Definite information regarding increase of population living in slums is not available. Major schemes for environmental improvement of urban slums are taken up by States as part of the State Plan under the Minimum Needs Programme. Under this programme, basic amenities like water supply, sewers, storm water drains, community baths and latrines, widening and paving the existing lanes and street lighting are provided in the identified slum areas. In the face of the growing problem, the emphasis is now on the environmental improvement of slums rather than massive clearance and relocation.

Irrigation Facilities to Southern Parts of Bihar During Sixth Plan

1916 SHRI RAM SWARUP RAM : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to provide irrigation facilities for the southern portions of Tikari Block, Pariya, Delagang, Guruva in the district, Gaya (Bihar) before the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what are the proposals and details of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :

(a) and (b) Two major and one medium on-going irrigation schemes benefit the areas in Gaya district of Bihar before the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan. However, details regarding blocks covered under irrigation are not maintained at the Centre. The details of the projects concerned are as under :