

**Inclusion of Catchments of Rivers of Orissa in Centrally Sponsored Scheme to Save Floodprone Areas**

1044. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently approved the Centrally sponsored scheme for "Integrated Watershed Management in the catchment of the floodprone rivers of Indo-Gangetic Basin" whereas Mahanadi, Brahmani and Godavari Basins have not been considered for this scheme;

(b) whether it is a fact that four major inter-State rivers—Mahanadi, Brahmani, Subernarekha and Machkund with their network of tributaries and branches flow through Orissa;

(c) whether Orissa is victim of flood once in every 2 years resulting in huge loss of crops;

(d) whether Government will consider the desirability of including the catchments of above 4 Orissa rivers also under the Scheme; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Rashtriya Barh Ayog has indicated that the most flood prone areas are in the Brahmaputra Basin and Northern sub-basins in the Ganga basin. However, Orissa has been identified as one of the five more flood prone States in the country. During the period from 1971 to 1978, the State of Orissa was seriously affected three times by flood.

(d) No, Sir. However, Inter-state

catchments of Mahanadi and Muchkund in Orissa have been receiving soil conservation treatments since Third Five Year Plan under another Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects. Further, the catchment of Brahmani has also been included under this Centrally Sponsored Scheme since 5th Five Year Plan.

(e) Due to financial constraints the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Watershed Management was restricted to only 8 catchments in the Gangetic basin which accounts for 60% of flood affected area and 40% of India's population. Therefore, the scope of this scheme has been confined to Gangetic basin at present.

**Inclusion of Rivers of Orissa in Soil Conservation Scheme**

1045. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the Sixth Plan period it was proposed to take up soil conservation measures in the catchment area of three inter-State river valley projects namely, Upper Kolab, Indravati and Subernarekha with a view to prevent silt inflow to the reservoir and for moderating the flood hazards and saving the down-stream fertile lands from sand casting;

(b) whether Government will consider the desirability of sanctioning soil conservation schemes for the catchment area of the above 3 Orissa rivers, if not already done;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the estimated expenditure involved in taking up these soil conservation measures ?

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