

(a) whether serious differences of opinion have arisen between the State Planning Board, MP and Narmada Planning Agency in respect of the Narmada Sagar Project; and

(b) if so, steps taken to resolve them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) When this matter, which appeared in the Newspapers was referred to, the Madhya Pradesh Government have intimated that the views expressed in the Newspapers cannot be identified as that of the State Government. The project report on Narmada Sagar Project based on the decisions of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal award, has been submitted by the State Government for technical examination and processing for acceptance by the planning Commission.

Small and Marginal Farmers in Madhya Pradesh not benefiting from Agriculture Extension Projects

1338. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that small and marginal farmers in Madhya Pradesh are not benefiting from Agriculture Extension Projects being implemented in the State;

(b) if so, the reasons for the failure of Agriculture Extension Projects to benefit small and marginal farmers; and

(c) the steps that have been taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) The small and marginal farmers in Madhya Pradesh are being benefited under agricultural extension project by way of :

1. ensuring their representation among contact farmers who are selected for providing link between field extension functionaries and follower farmers;
 2. generating appropriate low cost and location-specific technology commensurate with their scarce resources, with special reference to rainfed farming, by agricultural university/adaptive trial centres for dissemination among them;
 3. regular and timely visits by extension functionaries to the fields of small and marginal farmers for technical guidance;
- (b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Growth Rate of Foodgrains Production

1339. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether only five States in the country have recorded above average growth rate in foodgrains production during the decade

1970-71 to 1980-81;

(b) if so, whether during the decade the total foodgrains production had increased at the rate of 2.28 per cent;

(c) whether some States which comprised 55 per cent of the area had a growth rate below the national average;

(d) if so, what were the States where growth rate was higher and what were the States where the foodgrains production was below the target; and

(e) the steps being considered to improve the growth rate of foodgrains production in these States which were below the national average ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The growth rate of foodgrains production during the decade 1970-71 to 1980-81 in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Punjab and Tripura was above the national average. The compound rate of growth of foodgrains production during 1970-71 to 1980-81 based on the All-India index numbers was 2.32 per cent per annum.

(c) States which recorded a growth rate below the national average account for 66.88 per cent of the gross cropped area in the country.

(d) As indicated above the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Punjab and Tripura recorded a growth rate in foodgrain production higher than the national, average. During 1980-81 the operational target of foodgrains production was exceeded by Uttar Pradesh whereas in other States the achievement was below operational targets.

(e) The production strategy and programme for increased agricultural/foodgrains production include :—

- (i) Achieving higher intensity of cropping ;
- (ii) Ensuring arrangements for timely and adequate supply of inputs like high yielding and other improved varieties of seeds, fertilizers, electricity and diesel for irrigation ;
- (iii) Intensification of agricultural research and extension of efforts ;
- (iv) Extension of irrigated areas and proper management of land and water ;
- (v) Increase in the area under short duration varieties of crops through catch cropping and inter-cropping ;
- (vi) Increased supply of institutional credit ;
- (vii) Remunerative prices for farmers,