

(c) Indigenous manufacture of milk powder and butter is closely linked with the availability of surplus milk after meeting fluid milk requirements of consumers in the urban and rural areas. The Operation Flood II programme envisages conversion of such surplus milk into milk powder and butter through establishment of feeder balancing dairies.

Subsidised Distribution of Improved Agricultural Implements to Farmers

3546. SHRI BALASHAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided on a new scheme for subsidised distribution of improved agricultural implements to small, marginal and tribal farmers in the country ;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme ;

(c) whether any demonstrations of the improved implements will be carried out ; and

(d) if so, the centres selected for demonstration in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A scheme has been sanctioned in December, 1983.

(b) The scheme consists of three integrated components :

(i) Establishment of 1200 farmers agro service centres at the rate of 2 centres per block in 600 blocks in nine States (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh (Eastern districts)). The centres are not conceived as providing a wide range of agro services. They will be primarily custom hiring centres for hiring of improved animal drawn implements, hand tools and a limited number of small machines.

(ii) Intensive demonstration of improved

animal drawn implements and hand tools in the selected 600 blocks. The blocks will be selected in approximately 100 districts by the State Government concerned.

(iii) Subsidy for sale of improved animal drawn implements and hand tools at the rate of 33-1/3% for marginal farmers, 25% for small farmers and 50% for tribal farmers. The target is to distribute 2.51 lakh implements and 4.6 lakh hand tools. While the first two components of the programme will be implemented in 600 blocks in 9 States, this component will also be implemented in an additional 300 blocks in the remaining States.

(c) and (d). Demonstration of improved implements will be carried out in the selected blocks. It is for the Government of Maharashtra to select the 88 blocks in which the scheme is to be implemented.

Development of small and medium towns

3547. SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 has hindered housing and as such, land in the Metropolitan Cities has become costly and the housing crisis is at its Peak ;

(b) what planning has been made by Government to develop small and medium town settlements in a regional perspective ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) There are 12 Metropolitan cities. All these cities are covered under the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976. Due to the implementation of the Act, land transfers are not taking place as freely as before, but this is only one of the contributory factors to Urban

land price rise. The other factors contributing to the rise in land prices is the shortage of developed Urban Land and the under utilisation of available land, the adverse effect of restrictive building bye-laws and land use controls, rigid forms to land tenure etc. The demand for residential and commercial and other uses of land due to population growth and urbanisation as also general inflationary trends also contribute to the rise in land prices.

(b) During the 6th Five Year Plan the Centrally sponsored Scheme for the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns has been launched. The State Government and UTs. were asked to formulate schemes for towns allocated to them keeping in view its locational importance and linkages in the region.

(c) A State-wise release of funds made to towns approved under the Scheme is given in the attached statement (See cols. 411-416).

Irrigation Projects Planned during Sixth Plan

3548. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) details of the irrigation projects planned during the Sixth Plan in different States :

(b) the names of the projects and when these projects were completed and their irrigation potentials ; and

(c) the names of the projects which have been abandoned, the reasons for their abandonment and the amount spent on each of such projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). The State-wise details of on-going and new major projects taken up in VI Plan as well as number of medium projects with their latest estimated costs and potentials are shown in Statement I(A), I(B) and I(C). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7963/83].

As per discussions in Working Group for annual plan 1984-85, it is estimated that

during the VI Plan, 15 major and 50 medium projects were expected to be completed so far. A list of such projects is given in Statement II(A) and II(B). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7963/84]. The details of minor irrigation schemes are not maintained at the Centre.

(c) No information is available about any project having been abandoned.

Supply of Imported Edible Oil to States for PDS

3549. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) State and Union Territory-wise anticipated supply of imported edible oil for Public Distribution System during 1984 ;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the supply to be distributed through Public Distribution System in 1984 on account of very high price of edible oil prevailing in the country ;

(c) whether Government are aware that edible oil which is essential for common man's living is selling at so high a rate in the market that it strains the poor man's family budget ; and

(d) the steps Government propose to keep the price of edible oil at accessible limit ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (DR. M.S. SANJEEVI RAO) : (a) and (b). The allocation of imported edible oils to States/Union Territories is made on a monthly basis on consideration of various factors such as realistic assessment of the demand, consumption pattern, prices and availability of indigenous oils within the State/region, availability of stocks with State Trading Corporation and the pace of lifting of oils allocated earlier. The allocation of imported edible oils to the State Governments for issue through Public Distribution System has been increased to 75,000 tonnes per month in addition to 20000 MT being distributed in small packs. The allocation at this rate will continue till the