

The Working Groups are deliberating on the strategies to be adopted during the Seventh Plan in consultation with the State Governments.

**Agrometeorological surveys and forecasts to boost farm output**

9353. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an expert of the World Meteorological organisation has stated that agrometeorological surveys and forecasts will help to boost farm output ;

(b) whether according to the expert the modern scientific methods in meteorology can effectively assist in determining the varieties of crops to be cultivated and the periods favourable for sowing and harvesting ;

(c) if so, whether according to the expert even now epidemic diseases and pests are still a major factor in reducing yields and causing losses in storage ;

(d) if so, whether Union Government are considering to introduce meteorology to help boost the farm output and also to overcome the epidemic diseases which destroy major yields and cause losses in storage in the country ; and

(e) if so, the methods being adopted in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c) The India Meteorological Department and Indian Council of Agricultural Research are not aware of any such statement made by a World Meteorological Organisation expert. However, it is a common knowledge that agro-meteorological surveys and forecasts can help to boost up farm output.

(d) and (e) The India Meteorological Department is having a full-fledged Agro-Meteorology Division to cater to the needs of the farming community. A scheme is also in operation to identify the meteorological conditions favourable for the incidence and spread of crop pests and diseases. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has

launched an All India Coordinated Project on Agro-Meteorology to study the Crop-weather Correlations in different agro climatic regions of the country.

**No Fresh Projects during Seventh Plan**

9354. SHRI B.V. DESAI :

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission is of the view that no fresh projects should be taken up for implementation in the Seventh Plan period ;

(b) if so, whether this suggestion has been made only because many major and medium irrigation projects which were initiated in the Second and Third Plan periods are yet to be completed ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that out of 27 only 6 major on-going projects which had been given highest priority in the Sixth Plan will be completed as scheduled ;

(d) if so, the main reasons for completing only 6 out of 27 on-going projects ; and

(e) whether remaining projects will be completed during Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No such decision has been taken .

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a).

(c) and (d) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to 58 ongoing major projects taken up before 1969 at the start of the VI Five Year Plan. Out of these, 24 projects are likely to be completed during the Sixth Plan period.

Cost escalation, constraints of the funds and scarcity of construction materials are the main reasons for the delay in completion of projects.

(e) The Working Group set up by the