

very large scale in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years ;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the plantation in that State and prohibit illegal cutting of trees ;

(c) whether Madhya Pradesh is far behind in the plantation due to lack of funds ; and

(d) whether Government propose to provide additional funds for the purpose and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The Government are aware of the illicit cutting of trees in forests in a few districts of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The plantation activity has been stepped up recently as is evident from the following :

Year	Trees planted (No. in lakhs)
1981-82	2456
1982-83	2839
1983-84	2875

(d) It is proposed to enhance the outlay for the purpose during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Dredging of River Beds in Maharashtra to prevent floods

62. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that floods are causing great devastation and damage to property and human lives in the country every year ;

(b) whether there are demands from the

people, especially from Sindhudurg from Maharashtra to ensure the dredging of river beds ; and

(c) whether Government have sought any financial assistance from International Funding Institutions to finance projects to dredge shallow rivers to prevent flooding of rivers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Floods, in India, is a natural phenomenon due to its climatic conditions as about 90 per cent of the total average annual flows are carried by various rivers during the four months of the monsoon season. Encroachment of flood plains due to pressure of population and other developmental activities is also another factor for flood damage and human suffering.

(b) and (c). The Government of Maharashtra has not submitted any proposal for dredging of the rivers beds in Sindhudurg areas. Therefore the reply to part (c) does not arise.

Floods in Konkan region of Maharashtra

63. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during the recent devastating floods in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts of the backward Konkan region of Maharashtra there was a heavy destruction of agricultural lands on the banks of the overflowing region ;

(b) if so, whether Central assistance was given for rehabilitating the agricultural lands which were badly damaged ; and

(c) if so, the quantum of Central assistance given for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) As per information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra the extent of damage due to recent devastating floods in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg Districts is as under ;

Name of the Districts affected	No. of cultivators affected	Area of Agricultural land affected
1. Ratnagiri	3574	461.25 hectares
2. Sindhudurg	1792	201.00 hectares

(b) and (c). No request for Central assistance has been received from the Government of Maharashtra so far. However, the State Government has intimated that sufferers are being paid subsidy from their funds as per prescribed norms for the resowing operations. The State has a margin money of Rs. 457 lakhs.

Ownership rights to allottees of DDA flats

64. SHRI MOHAMMAD ASRAR AHMAD : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether DDA (Delhi Development Authority) flat allottees do not possess ownership rights over their flats even after they have paid the full cost of the flats ;

(b) whether the allottees have to pay ground rent to DDA in perpetuity ;

(c) whether the allottees of flats and Residents Welfare Associations have made several representations to confer full ownership rights to the allottees and do away with the ground rent system ; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

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) In accordance with the present policy of the Government, flats are allotted by DDA on lease hold basis.

(b) Yes.

(c) DDA has reported that some repre-

sentations from the Resident Welfare Associations have been received for the full ownership rights to allottees.

(d) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Cost Escalation of Rajasthan Canal

66. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL :
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in 'Jansatta' dated 30 June, 1984 wherein it has been stated that the cost of construction of Rajasthan Canal has increased by more than 15 times than its original estimates ;

(b) if so, what was the original estimate and what will be total expenditure now on its completion ;

(c) how many times these estimates were revised ; and

(d) whether Central Government will make sufficient funds available for its early completion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). The cost of Rajasthan Canal Project according to original estimate (1957) was Rs. 66.46 crores. Rajasthan Government have informed that according to present estimate (at 1983 price level) the cost of Project is Rs. 917.44 crores. The increase in cost is reported to be due to enlargement of scope