

**Payment to farm workers In the form of  
Khesari Dal**

1316. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the response of the different States and Union Territories to the proposal to ban the payment of wages to farm labourers in the form of Khesari Dal and to ban the very cultivation of this commodity;

(b) whether it is a fact that though in some of the States legislative measures had been taken to ban the payment of wages in the form of Khesari Dal to the farm workers, steps have yet to be taken to enforce the legislations;

(c) if so, the States in which concrete measures have not yet been taken in this direction; and

(d) the steps Central Government propose to take to ensure that such a harmful cultivation is affectively prohibited ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (d) All the State Governments except Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal have prohibited under Rule 44-A of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1955, the use of 'Khesari Dal' for human consumption. The State Governments of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have banned the payment of wages in the form of Khesari Dal vide their notification of 12 April, 1982 and 19 September, 1983 respectively. Central Government do not have any proposal to ban cultivation of Khesari Dal. However, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has banned the cultivation of Khesari Dal.

**Thermal Plants at Mettur and North  
Madras**

1317. SHRI R. PRABHU : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have

approved any proposal for setting up of Thermal Plants at Mettur and North Madras;

(b) if so, the capacities that have been approved in respect of each of these plants;

(c) the estimated cost of setting up of each of these plants; and

(d) when these plants are likely to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (d) Stage I and Stage II of the thermal power project at mettur have been approved, each stage having two units of 210 MW. Stage-I was sanctioned at an estimated to cost Rs. 189.70 crores and Stage-II was estimated to cost Rs. 238.28 crores. The commissioning of two units is expected in 1986-87, and 1987-88, while unit 3 (Stage-II) is expected to be commissioned in 1988-89. The commissioning schedule of unit-4 can be determined after coal linkage and orders for boiler and turbine generator have been finalised.

The North Madras Thermal Power Project (3 × 210MW) has been techno-economically approved by the CEA at an estimated cost of Rs. 547.79 crores. The commissioning schedule can be determined after investment decision by the Planning Commission.

**Coverage of districts of Ooty and  
Coimbatore by Television**

1318. SHRI R. PRABHU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the entire districts of Ooty and Coimbatore will be covered by television;

(b) if so, by what date; and

(c) whether Government will consider putting up micro wave tower for television