

Effect of Increase in Power Traffic on Agricultural Production

4662. SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the adverse effects on agricultural production in deep-lift irrigation areas on account of progressive increase in power tariff ; and

(b) if so, the steps being contemplated to remedy the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER) : (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) The Electricity Boards in order to encourage agricultural production usually charge motivational rates for agricultural pumping. The increase in consumption of power for agricultural pumping during the last three years, in spite of small increase in tariff rates, not indicate any adverse effect on agricultural production.

(b) Does not arise

Guarantees Required by State Electricity Boards in respect of Agricultural Consumption

4663. SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the insistence of high minimum guarantees by the State Electricity Boards in respect of agricultural consumption is acting as deterrent to use of electricity for lift irrigation in drought-affected areas ; and

(b) whether a study of the situation is proposed to be made with a view to effect reduction of minimum guarantee charges ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) and (b). Minimum consumption guarantee charges for irrigation pumpsets are fixed by the Electricity Boards to ensure certain level of consumption consistent with the investment made by the Boards for providing the power

supply. Generally the agricultural consumers consumed more energy than what the minimum consumption guarantee required. The minimum consumption guarantee charge in the case of Uttar Pradesh is high compared to other States. The Government of Uttar Pradesh are examining the question of reducing the charge.

In Andhra Pradesh whenever drought conditions occur the minimum consumption guarantee is not levied. In the case of most of the other States also relief in the minimum consumption guarantee charge is given when drought conditions occur, and enough water in the wells is not available for the consumer to utilise the pumping sets to the extent of minimum consumption guarantee.

Floods in Manipur

4664. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Manipur are aware that vast agricultural areas between Wangjing and Khongjom on the Imphal Moreh Road are heavily flooded causing damage to crops every year due to the absence of flood control measures in that area ,

(b) if so, the measures being taken to control these floods ; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, whether the Government of Manipur propose to cause an early investigation into the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) to (c) : Taking into account the damage caused by floods, the Manipur Administration have prepared a scheme estimated to cost Rs. 4.4 lakhs consisting of constitution of embankments, strengthening of existing embankments and provision of sluices, for protection against floods of Wangjing river. The scheme which has been approved by the Planning Commission, is under execution.