

for Rs. 46 lakhs during the Fourth Five-Year Plan, has been approved for Sidhi district under the drought-prone area programme of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Works financed under these schemes are executed through State agencies concerned.

#### **Community Development Blocks without Primary Health Centres**

1141. SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the Community Development Blocks are still without primary Health Centres and without doctors in Madhya Pradesh ; and

(b) if so, the number of Community Development Blocks, State-wise, where such facilities are not available to the people and the steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) Yes.

(b) A statement containing the information is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3298/72].

#### **Shortfall in the Food production during 1971-72**

1142. SHRI RAM PRAKASH :

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortfall in the food production during the years 1971-72 ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Firm estimate of production of foodgrains in the country during 1971-72 is not yet available. However, according to information available so far, the total foodgrains production during 1971-72 may be marginally lower than the record level reached in the previous year. The kharif crops, particularly coarse grains, were

adversely affected by drought during June-August, 1971 in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Mysore, floods in August-September in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, and cyclone in October in Orissa, and the summer rice crop, for which an Emergency Production Programme was launched in December, 1971, was affected in many States by failure of rains during March-May, 1972.

#### **Taxation on Motor Vehicles by States**

1143. SHRI RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are persuading the States not to increase taxation on motor vehicles ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI OM MEHTA) : (a) and (b). The recommendations of the Road Transport Taxation Enquiry Committee (Keskar Committee) regarding the present levels of taxation on motor vehicles were considered by the Transport Development Council. The general feeling in the Council was that it would be difficult for the State Governments to reduce taxation, in view of the need to raise resources for developmental activities. It was, therefore, agreed that, as a first step, there should be no further upward changes in the existing level of taxation on motor vehicles. This recommendation was brought to the notice of the State Governments for their consideration.

#### **Setting up of Joint Indo-Afghan Cultural Commission**

1144. SHRI RAM PRAKASH :  
SHRI RAMSHEKHAR PRASAD  
SINGH :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a joint Indo-Afghan Cultural Commission to promote cultural exchange ; and

(b) if so, its composition and the time by which it will be set up ?