

(a) whether there is a great problem of drinking water in Banni area in Kutch district;

(b) whether Government are considering a plan submitted by Gujarat Government to supply water through pipe lines in that area; and

(c) if so, decision of Central Government and the time by which the plan will be implemented ?

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) and (c). A scheme for providing water supply for Banni area at an estimated cost of Rs. 79.65 lakhs was recently sent by the Government of Gujarat for approval under the Accelerated Programme of Rural Water Supply. The scheme was not approved for being taken up under the programme as it was not found financially viable.

#### Buffer Stock of Foodgrains

2825. DR. KARNI SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state position of buffer stock of foodgrains with the Government at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : Excluding stocks in the pipeline, the total physical stocks of foodgrains with Central and State Governments in the beginning of August, 1972, were about 8.2 million tonnes. Taking 2.5 million tonnes as operational stocks, the buffer stock was about 5.7 million tonnes.

#### Writ Petition Filed by Employees of Indian Council of Agricultural Research in Delhi High Court

2826. SHRI BHARAT SINGH CHOWHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some employees of the I.C.A.R. at the Head Quarters filed a Writ petition in the Delhi High Court against the Union of India in June, July, 1970;

(b) whether some Officers and staff on Government and Non-Government sides of the I.C.A.R. were paid honorarium for preparing the reply of the Government and ancillary work connected with the Writ petition;

(c) if so, the names of the various Officers and staff who were sanctioned honorarium and the amount paid to each of them; and

(d) whether the grant of honorarium was permissible under any rules and whether any Officer or member of staff in the I.C.A.R. was paid honorarium in connection with a similar writ petition filed by employees of I.A.R.I. in 1966 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a). Yes, Sir.

(b). Yes, Sir.

(c). Honorarium was sanctioned to the following officers as indicated against each :—

1. Shri B. S. Yadav, Under Secretary	...	Rs. 1,000.00
2. Shri Darbari Lal, Section Officer	...	Rs. 500.00
3. Shri A. R. Jain, Section Officer	...	Rs. 500.00
4. Shri V. Krishnamurthi, Assistant	...	Rs. 450.00
5. Shri Lal Chand, Personel Assistant	...	Rs. 450.00
6. Shri T. V. Krishna- murthy, Personal Asstt.	...	Rs. 200.00

(d). Yes, Sir. No officer or member of staff in the I.C.A.R. was paid honorarium in connection with a similar Writ petition filed by employees of I.A.R.I. in 1966.