

**Strategy for Crude Oil Supplies to  
Agriculture**

4665. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn any strategy for oil supplies in sufficient quantities to meet the urgent needs of agriculture; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). There is at present a heavy demand of High Speed Diesel Oil and Light Diesel Oil for agricultural sector, mostly due to the failure of winter rains. Action has been taken to increase the production of diesel oils in refineries to the maximum extent possible. Following steps have been taken for this purpose:—

- (i) Production of other middle distillates has been reduced to correspondingly increase the production of diesel oils.
- (ii) Certain specifications of diesel oils have been relaxed temporarily to ensure maximum production.
- (iii) Certain relaxations have been permitted in F.O. also and the use of heavier viscosity oil is being encouraged to allow increased production of diesel oils.

(iv) Priority is being given to the movement of diesel oils particularly to the north-west region where demand of agricultural sector is the highest.

**Irrigation and Power Schemes in  
West Bengal**

4666. SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major and medium irrigation schemes and power schemes submitted by West Bengal Government during the last two years to the Centre for development of irrigation and power in the State;

(b) the particulars of schemes sanctioned by the Centre and the amount approved therefor; and

(c) how many of these approved by the Centre and the amount approved and the present stage of the approved schemes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Two major and eleven medium irrigation schemes and five power schemes have been received from the Government of West Bengal during the last two years.

(b) and (c). Of these, three medium irrigation schemes and three power schemes have been approved by the Planning Commission. These schemes have not been completed so far.