

Union Government, have taken steps to procure foodgrains through a system of levy on producers, millers as well as traders. In addition, regulatory and control measures are also being enforced in regard to trading in foodgrains through a system of licensing including control on wholesale prices of wheat. Also, restrictions have been imposed on inter-State trading of wheat and rice. These steps are expected to maximise procurement so as to ensure availability of foodgrains through public distribution system to the vulnerable sections of the population.

#### Universal Primary Education

2659. SHRI TUNA ORAON:  
SHRI KUMAR MAJHI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Universal Primary Education programme has been abandoned due to lack of funds; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Liaison between University Staff and Engineers and Scientists

2660. DR. K. L. RAO: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the development of science and technology can take place only if there is a close liaison between University Staff and engineers and scientists engaged in the actual field; and

(b) if so, what are the specific steps being taken for the project to be taken up to bring about this in a period of next ten years?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The programmes initiated to bring about close coordination and co-operation between technical education and industry include organisation of Sandwich courses, industrially-oriented postgraduate programmes, Short-term courses for serving personnel and promotion of consultancy services by Indian Institutes of Technology and other well developed Institutions where the facilities and expertise are available for research, design, development and consultancy work.

Besides, the Department of Science and Technology has under its consideration proposals to establish appropriate institutional machinery at various levels for coordinating the activities in research, development, consultancy etc., among technical institutions, industries research laboratories and other organisations and to bring about close liaison among them.

#### Irrigation potential of Chattisgarh (M.P.)

2661. SHRI DINESH JOARDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a Chattisgarh region in Madhya Pradesh the irrigation potential of the area does not exceed 11 per cent, of this 8 per cent was created before Independence and during the last 27 years only 3 per cent has been added; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH): (a) Chattisgarh region in Madhya Pradesh may be taken to comprise the areas in the districts of Durg, Rajpur and Bilaspur. In this area, the pre-Plan irrigation potential from major and medium schemes was