

(b) if so, the reasons for selecting the districts of Madhya Pradesh only under this scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. An agreement for implementing a project for dairy development in Madhya Pradesh with World Bank assistance has been signed. Pre-requisites for actual operation are being completed. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 24.90 crores.

(b) It is not a fact that scheme has been taken up in M.P. only. Similar projects are being implemented in Rajasthan and Karnataka on the same pattern of assistance.

#### Cultivation of tapioca

975. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of tapioca in Andhra Pradesh has been more than double in 1973-74;

(b) whether this increased production is due to increased acreage of cultivation; and

(c) whether tapioca can be cultivated commercially in other places and States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The increased production of tapioca in Andhra Pradesh is due partly to better yields and partly to increase in area.

(c) Yes, Sir.

#### Cultivation of dates in Rajasthan and Haryana

976. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a pilot project for commercial cultivation of dates in the irrigated and arid regions of Jaisalmer and Jodhpur in Rajasthan and Hissar in Haryana is under way; and

(b) if so, whether as a result thereof the import of dates from Iran and other Arab countries is likely to stop altogether?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) No Sir. At present there is no pilot project for commercial cultivation of dates.

(b) The question does not arise at this stage. Even when date plantations are established, it will take about seven years for the palms to start bearing.

#### Central aid to drought affected areas in States

977. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:  
DR. H. P. SHARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state

(a) whether further help been given to the drought affected areas in various States and if so, its break-up, State-wise and criteria for allotment for such aid; and

(b) whether statutory rationing has been introduced in those areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): (a) States affected by drought and floods have been sanctioned the

following assistance during 1974-75 as advance Plan assistance and short term loans:

State	(Rupees in crores)	
	Advance Plan assistance	Short term loan
1. Bihar . . .	4.00	10.25
2. Gujarat . . .	14.14	10.00
3. Haryana . . .	2.00	Nil
4. Madhya Pradesh . . .	6.50	5.30
5. Orissa . . .	7.91	3.31
6. Rajasthan . . .	10.24	1.75
7. Tamil Nadu . . .	7.50	Nil
8. Uttar Pradesh . . .	Nil	8.00
9. West Bengal . . .	2.25	3.00

Advance Plan assistance will be adjusted against the amount of assistance due to the States in future years. The old system of giving *ad hoc* grants and loans to States affected by drought and floods has been entirely given up following Government's acceptance of the Sixth Finance Commission's recommendations. The criteria for giving advance Plan assistance are the State's financial situation, the margin money allowed to it by the Sixth Finance Commission for the relief of distress caused by drought and floods, the extent of damage caused by the drought or floods and the size of the effort which needs to be made by the State to provide employment to the affected population. Short term loans are given on the basis of the States' needs in relation to its agricultural production plan and the availability of funds with the Government of India.

(b) No, Sir. The distribution of food-grains and the introduction of statutory rationing are the responsibility of the State Governments. At present, statutory rationing is in existence only in Calcutta, Durgapur and Asansol Industrial belt in West Bengal and in Bombay in Maharashtra.

### Minor irrigation schemes during Fifth Plan

978. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether further steps have been taken to set up minor irrigation schemes in various States during the Fifth Plan;

(b) amount sanctioned for this purpose to U.P.; and

(c) progress made in this regard in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Public Sector outlay for minor irrigation proposed in the draft Fifth Five-Year Plan is Rs. 150 crores as compared to Rs. 80.84 crores actually spent during the Fourth Five-Year Plan. It is expected to be supplemented to the extent of Rs. 190.00 crores by institutional investment during the Fifth Five-Year Plan as compared to anticipated institutional investment of Rs. 100 crores during the Fourth Five-Year Plan.

(c) Statewise progress of minor irrigation in terms of area benefited at the end of Fourth Plan, i.e. 1973-74 and that is likely to be attained at the end of Fifth Plan, i.e. 1978-74, is given in the Statement.