

**Take over of caves at Panhalekaji by
Archaeological Survey of India**

2020. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 36 caves have been found at Panhalekaji in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Archaeological Survey of India propose to take them over for preservation and maintenance;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) to which period, and to which religion do these caves belong?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Archaeological Survey of India has decided to protect the caves and the necessary notification to that effect will be issued as soon as the revenue data is collected and finalized.

(d) While some of the caves are Buddhist, others were used for the worship of Brahmanical deities. The caves appear to range in dates between the second and thirteenth centuries A.D.

Capacity of sugar mills

2021. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of each of the sugar mills in the country for producing sugar each year;

(b) what has been their performance during the last three years; and

(c) reasons for the shortfalls and remedial measures being undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11307/76].

(c). The shortfall in sugar production was either due to non-availability of sugarcane sufficient or due to old and obsolete plant and machinery in some of the sugar factories. The Government have sponsored a Central Sector Scheme for the development of sugarcane in the areas of all the existing sugar factories during the Fifth Five Year Plan. A scheme to forestall sickness in selected industries, including sugar industry, by grant of soft loans through the Industrial Development Bank of India, to enable them to improve their productivity and competitiveness by modernisation and rehabilitation, has been formulated.

Irrigation Schemes in Maharashtra

2022. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) which irrigation schemes in Maharashtra have been sanctioned by the Centre for the year 1976-77;

(b) what is the irrigation potential of each of them; and

(c) what is the estimated cost of each and how much of it is being borne by the Centre?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH): (a) Four major irrigation schemes of Maharashtra viz., Upper Wardha, Jayakwadi State-II, Upper Penganga, Manjra and one medium scheme viz. Abhora have been cleared so far by the Planning Commission during the year 1976-77.

(b) and (c). The annual irrigation and the estimated cost of each of the

above schemes is given in the following table:

Name of Scheme	Annual Irrigation (Thousand Ha.)	Estimated cost (Rs. lakhs)
1. Upper Wardha	75.98	3988
2. Jayakwadi (II)	135.57	8890
3. Upper Penganga	111.50	8448
4. Majra	27.80	2019
5. Abhora	1.40	75

Central assistance to the States' developmental plans is in the form of block loans and grants, which is not related to any particular scheme or group of schemes or sector of development.

Wheat and rice eating population

2023. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state the population of wheat and rice eaters, separately in India.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): Separate figures for rice and wheat eating population in the country are not available. The predominantly rice eating and wheat eating areas are, however, indicated in the statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11308/76].

Setting up of Autonomous Boards for reviewing the progress of Rural Water Supply

2024. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:
SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has asked the State Governments to take necessary action for setting up

autonomous boards with adequate powers to raise money from the open market, banks and other agencies, a monitoring cell for reviewing the progress of rural water supply and attaching due priority to take up rural water supply schemes in scarcity and problem villages; and

(b) if so, the suggestions made by Central Government to the States in this regard and the reactions of States thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). With a view to building up the tempo for the programme of rural water supply, all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been advised recently to take necessary action for:—

- (i) setting up of autonomous Board with adequate powers to raise money from the open market, banks, etc.;
- (ii) setting up of a monitoring cell for reviewing the progress of rural water supply; and
- (iii) attaching due priority to take up rural water supply schemes in scarcity and problem villages.

The comments of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are awaited.

Brahmaputra Flood Control Commission

2025. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Brahmaputra Flood Control Commission set up in 1970 has been engaged in repairing damaged embankment instead of drawing up a flood control programme and whether such Flood Control Committees have become ineffective for lack of funds;