

1976 during Kharif irrigation in zones where the canal is in heavy filling.

(b) It has been reported by the State Government that strict vigilance is being maintained, continuous patrolling of canal banks is being done and the banks are also being strengthened at vulnerable points to prevent further breaches.

(c) and (d). The lining of the canal is not considered essential by the State Government because of technical reasons and prohibitive cost involved.

Central Aid and Assistance for Construction of Bagmati Barrage

2036. SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Minister has made a statement at Sitamarhi that if the State Government wants to execute the Bagmati Barrage, Centre is ready to send a team of experts;

(b) if so, the reactions of the State Government;

(c) how far Centre is contemplating to aid and assist the State Government in Bagmati Barrage construction; and

(d) what are the advantages envisaged to be derived from the scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government's request for sending a team of experts has been received in the Central Water Commission on 27th August, 1976.

(c) Irrigation is a State subject and irrigation schemes are planned, executed and financed by the State Governments. Central assistance is normally given in the form of block loans and grants which is not related

to any individual project, group of projects or sector of development. The necessary technical assistance, as may be required by the State, will be provided.

(d) The Bagmati Project estimated to cost Rs. 22.55 crores envisages construction of a barrage on river Bagmati at Ramnagar with canals on either bank and guide bunds and afflux bunds on both the banks totalling to a length of 90 kms. It will provide irrigation to an area of about 1 lac ha. annually besides providing flood control benefits.

National Service Scheme in College/Universities

2037. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Service Scheme has been picked up by our colleges and university during its 7 or 8 years life;

(b) whether the functional value and relevance of higher education to the myriad problems confronting the country in the context of great gap between the elite and the masses will be abridged involving students and teachers on a voluntary-cum-selective basis; and

(c) the record of its working?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c). The National Service Scheme for involving students on a voluntary and selective basis in various items of social service and national development has made steady progress since its inception in 1969. The response from the colleges/universities has been good and the enrolment of students participating in the scheme has increased from about 40,000 in 1969-70 to nearly 2.50 lakhs for 1976-77.

Social Service rendered by the university students has covered many aspects like adoption of villages for intensive social uplift work, carrying out medico-social survey, imparting training to rural women in sewing, embroidery and knitting, work in urban areas, including social service to slum dwellers, mass immunisation, sanitation drives, running of welfare centres and adult education programmes for the poorer sections of the community, blood donation and small savings campaigns etc. The students of N.S.S have also been rendering assistance to patients in hospitals and inmates of orphanages and welfare institutions for the physically handicapped. An important field of activity during 1971-72 was Central Refugees Camps set up for refugees from Bangladesh.

As part of the constructive involvement of students during their vacations, large scale camping programmes have been organised under the National Service Scheme. In the course of these, some aspects of rural needs are being covered. During 1973 a "Youth Against Famine" campaign was launched in which the students worked in camps to mitigate hardships in drought effected and drought prone areas. 745 camps involving 65,000 youths were held. The evaluation of the campaign by the Delhi School of Social Work, Delhi warranted organisation of similar campaigns in subsequent years. Thus the camps were continued under the theme, "Youth Against Dirt and Disease" and "Youth for Afforestation and Tree Plantation". From 1976-77, the theme has been broadened to include various aspects of rural development under the general theme "Youth for Rural Reconstruction". The students have also been assisting in the campaign for creating public awareness for preservation of monuments. It is expected that 1,25,000 students will participate in the special camping programme during the current year. These programmes are evaluated by independent institutions every year and improvements effected, where necessary.

The N.S.S. programmes have also been evaluated by an informal group headed by Lt. Gen. K. P. Candeth. They have also been favourably commented upon by the Estimates Committee and the Central Advisory Board of Education.

National Service Scheme is basically an educational programme and is only one of the steps for involvement of students and teachers in understanding and appreciating the conditions and problems of the community and work towards their solution and for increasing the relevance of higher education to the various problems confronting the country. The University Grants Commission is also examining the question of integration of social service with the curricula of as many disciplines as possible in the context of up-dating and restructuring the syllabi.

Infusion of Self-Confidence among Students

2038. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Prime Minister while addressing a meeting in Delhi in the 1st week of March, 1976 expressed her desire that school children should be so trained as to develop a sense of pride in being Indian citizens, the training should infuse in them self-confidence and respect for the country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to be taken in Union Territories and asked the State Governments to frame the curriculum of school, college and University in this direction?

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