

subsidies were granted under the programme for permanent improvement of scarcity areas in 1961-62;

(b) whether there were any special reasons to exclude Kerala and West Bengal; and

(c) whether it is not a fact that Kerala and West Bengal are very backward in the matter of irrigation facilities as compared to the subsidised States?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri O. V. Alagesan): (a) Subsidies were sanctioned to the following States participating in the Programme of Permanent Improvements for Scarcity Areas during the year 1961-62:

1. Andhra Pradesh.
2. Assam.
3. Gujarat.
4. Madhya Pradesh.
5. Madras.
6. Maharashtra.
7. Mysore.
8. Rajasthan.
9. West Bengal.
10. Bihar.

(b) and (c). Subsidies are given from the year 1958-59 only to those States which participated in the Programme of Permanent Improvements for Scarcity Areas to cover interest charges payable by them for the first five years on the loans sanctioned by the Government of India. While West Bengal participated in the Programme and was granted subsidy, Kerala State was not a participant. The Programme of Permanent Improvement for Scarcity Areas has not been continued in the Third Plan.

Aid to Panchayats

3582. Shri Reddiar: Will the Minister of **Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from a number of Panchayats that the Panchayats and

the local public are not able to pay under the scheme of matching grants expected of them for forming village roads and providing drinking water supply because of lack of financial resources; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider the means of helping such Panchayats?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Panchayat Union Councils

3583. Shri Reddiar: Will the Minister of **Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations that the finances provided for the Panchayat Union Councils are not sufficient to carry out the obligations imposed on them; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to augment their finances?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Delhi-Nagpur Night Plane Service

3584. Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the night plane service from Delhi to Nagpur on the 10th May, had to return to Delhi without landing at Nagpur;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) the number of foreign tourists, if any, in that trip; and

(d) what alternate arrangements were made to transport the passengers?