

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) 957.

(b) A loan of Rs. 76 lakhs was sanctioned during 1961-62 for rural electrification in the Punjab. No. request for Central loan assistance has so far been received from the State Government for 1962-63.

(c) Information has been called for from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha, when received.

Object of Community Development

2117. { **Shri Chhotubhai Patel:**
Shri D. J. Naik:

Will the Minister of Community and Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the main object of Community Development Scheme is more production of foodgrains; and

(b) if so, what is the assessment of increase in production of foodgrains in the year 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61 in the reas covered by Community Development Blocks?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation (Shri Syam Dhar Misra): (a) The main objective of the Community Development Programme is to bring about all sided development of the Community but in view of the national priority concentration of effort, for the present, is on increasing agriculture production.

(b) According to the 7th Evaluation Report (1960) of the Programme Evaluation Organization on Community Development Programme there has been a general increase in the total agricultural output in Community Development Blocks. However, in view of the fact that the area under the Community Development Programme is constantly expanding and shall cover the entire country by

October, 1963, no separate assessment of food production is made in respect of Community Development areas alone. An assessment of total agriculture production is made every year for the whole country.

Aerodrome Near Shillong

2118. Shri Swell: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to construct an aerodrome in or near-about Shillong; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in that regard?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagvati) (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A proposal to construct an aerodrome near Shillong is under consideration. An estimate for the project is being prepared.

Sethusamudram Project

2119. { **Shri Umanath:**
Shri M. K. Kumaran:
Shri P. Kunhan:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri M. P. Swamy:
Shri Arunachalam:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fresh estimate for the Sethusamudram Project based on the data collected so far, is being prepared by the Chief Engineer (General) Government of Madras;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for a fresh estimate;

(c) what were the defects in the original estimates;

(d) when the report is expected to be submitted and whether execution would be delayed depending on the completion and finalisation of the estimate;