

- (c) Government are not aware of it.
 (d) Yes, Sir.

Study of Drought Areas in the Country

692. SHRI MAYAVAN :
 SHRI CHENGALRAYA
 NAIDU :
 SHRI R. BARUA :
 SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :
 SHRI N. R. LASKAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether at the instance of the Planning Commission, a study has been undertaken by the Government to scientifically map the country's drought areas which will eventually help in planning irrigation, crop patterns and even procurement programmes for individual districts ;

(b) if so, what are the regions selected ; and

(c) when the survey report is likely to be submitted to Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. No specific study at the instance of the Planning Commission for this purpose has been undertaken by the Government of India. However, for the purpose of planning development of chronically drought affected areas, all State Governments were requested by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to classify their chronically drought affected areas into 'A', 'B' and 'C' categories, based on a total or almost total failure of crops in the area once every three years, six years or ten years respectively. Due to paucity of funds, it was decided to restrict the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of development of chronically drought affected areas to be taken up during 1968-69 to hard core, i.e., 'A' category, areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madras and Mysore. A list of selected hard core areas in these States is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library See No. LT-2031/69] With effect from 1-4-1969, this scheme has been transferred to the State Sector. However, 10% of the Central assistance to States will be available in the Fourth Five Year Plan

period for special problems such as chronically drought affected areas, etc.

Another Centrally Sponsored Scheme of development of desert areas in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana is being continued as Central Sector Scheme in the Fourth Five Year Plan. Due to paucity of funds it has been decided to take up only pilot projects and the approach is to take up specified items of work, depending on the suitability of the area selected, in compact and well defined areas. Schemes of minor irrigation, soil conservation, afforestation, etc. totalling Rs. 12.44 lakhs have been sanctioned for Haryana and Gujarat States under a Central Sector Scheme. Schemes from Rajasthan Government are still awaited.

Policy Regarding Foodgrains and Sugar

693. SHRI MAYAVAN :
 SHRI CHENGALRAYA
 NAIDU :
 SHRI R. BARUA :
 SHRI N. R. LASKAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to continue the same policy in regard to foodgrains and sugar as prevalent in the last year inspite of good Kharif harvest ;

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

(c) whether there was a great criticism in the Chief Ministers' Conference ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Generally the last season's policy on kharif foodgrains and sugar is being continued during 1969-70 season.

(b) Government is continuing last year's policy in order to maximise internal procurement to build up a sizable buffer stock and reduce imports of foodgrains, to bring about price stabilisation, maintain supplies through public distribution system, and ensure remunerative prices to the producers.

(c) The policy has been decided in consultation with the Chief Ministers.