

Under a Centrally Sponsored programme of the Ministry of Food & Agriculture, State Governments are being given funds to carry out soil conservation programmes in the catchments of 13 river valley projects. During the Fourth Plan, this work is proposed to be continued and work will be started on eight additional projects. A provision of Rs. 27 crores has been made in the Fourth Plan for this purpose.

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture also propose to initiate intensive studies of the needs of watersheds as well as of command areas of major river valley projects by joint Government of India-State Teams of Experts with a view to prepare project reports containing specific schemes for implementation. The Conference of the Agricultural Ministers held recently endorsed the recommendation that a beginning should be made by taking up one important river valley project for such an intensive study in each State. This Conference also agreed that while drawing up State Agriculture programmes, priorities would be given to the needs of the command areas. Treatment of catchment areas of reservoirs is also proposed to be given the highest priority while drawing up State Soil Conservation Programmes.

Reservation of Power for Agricultural Electrification

1527. SHRI D. R. PARMAR : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have advised States to reserve and earmark 50 per cent of power generated for agricultural electrification ;

(b) if so, how much power is earmarked and connected for agriculture in Gujarat ; and

(c) the total power generated in Gujarat ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD):

(a) to (c) : Loads for agricultural pumping are an integral part of the power system load. Priority is already being given to rural loads particularly pumping and other agricultural loads in view of the emphasis placed on rural electrification schemes for energisation

of pumpsets. It is, therefore, not necessary that any portion of power should be specifically reserved for agricultural purposes.

In respect of the areas served by Gujarat Electricity Board, the total connected load for agricultural purposes as at the end of March, 1969, was of the order of 204 MW against the total connected load for all purposes of 830 MW. During the year 1969-70, the gross generation in Gujarat was 3705 million KWh/inclusive of energy supplied from the Tarapur Nuclear Project. The total consumption during 1969-70 was 2980 million KWh against which the total consumption for agricultural purposes was 360 million KWh.

Optimum Load Centres for Power for Agriculture

1528. SHRI D.R. PARMAR : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the optimum load centres for using power for agriculture in Gujarat ;

(b) the transmission lines which are underloaded for connecting power for agriculture in such centres in Gujarat ; and

(c) whether Government have made any survey or propose to do so in near future ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c). Mehsana, Baroda, Kaira, Ahmedabad, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Surat and Junagadh districts are the optimum agricultural load centres. None of the transmission lines are under-loaded as these have been designed to cater to the loads expected by 1973-74. Regular load surveys are conducted by the Central Water and Power Commission on the basis of data furnished by the State Electricity Boards.

Trade with Nepal for import of stainless steel and synthetic fibres

1530. SHRI LAKHAN LAL KAPOOR :
SHRI D.N. PATODIA :
SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE :
SHRI G. VENKATASWAMY :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE

be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to import stainless steel and synthetic fibres from Nepal ;

(b) if so, whether this stainless steel and synthetic fibre is manufactured in Nepal ; and

(c) if not, whether these items are routed through Nepal from the countries in which these are originally manufactured ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (c) : Perhaps the reference of Honourable Members is to synthetic fabrics and stainless steel products manufactured in Nepal. As far as the Government is aware, Nepal has not so far manufactured synthetic yarn/fibre of stainless steel.

During the talks between the representatives of the Government of India and H.M.G. Nepal, India expressed its willingness to consider the Nepalese request for import into India of synthetic fabrics and stainless steel manufactures until the end of October, 1970, provided Nepal agreed to route the goods through the Indian State Trading Channels.

Public Statements made by High Defence Officials after Retirement

1531. SHRI LAKHAN LAL KAPOOR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Generals, Air-Marshals and Admirals have made public statements after their retirement about the present situation in the country;

(b) if so, the names of such Army, Navy and Airforce personnels ; and

(c) the gist of their statements ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) : (a) to (c). Government have seen some Press reports of the statement said to have been made or views expressed by certain retired Service officers e.g., General K.M. Cariappa, General P.P. Kumaramangalam, Lt. Gen. Nathu Singh,

Maj. Gen. Jung Shumsher Singh, Maj. Gen. Rajinder Singh "Sparrow", Major Gen. Habibullah, Maj. Gen. S. N. Antia, Vice Admiral B. S. Soman and Rear Admiral Chakravarty. The gist of these views or statements, as could be made out from the Press reports, is indicated in the enclosed statement.

Statement

I. *Political Situation in the country :*

General K. M. Cariappa suggested a Presidential rule with the Army temporarily taking over administration in the chronically troubled States. He said that he was not in favour of any type of dictatorship or military rule as such. His statements were discussed in the House on 13th March, 1970 in response to a Calling Attention Notice.

General P.P. Kumaramangalam said that military rule was the last resort of a frustrated people in a democracy and could come about only if politicians failed to restore the confidence of the people in a democratic form of government.

Lt. Gen. Nathu Singh ruled out the possibility of military coup in our country since it is firmly wedded to democratic traditions. Maj. Gen. E. Habibullah blamed the non-Muslim leaders of undivided India for the partition of the country which, in his view, was the reason why the Muslims in India were feeling insecure.

II. *Defence Aspects :*

Vice Admiral B.S. Soman said that India must be prepared to ensure the security of our island territories and her sea-borne trade routes against threats from Pakistan and China.

Maj. Gen. S.N. Antia referred to certain weaknesses in the military intelligence organisation and re-