

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
16.	Mizoram	NIL	—	—	NIL	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	1	111.02	2.95	NIL	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	6(—1)*	4953.85	1156.55	10	499.95	410.23	
19.	Punjab	1(—1)*	3379.53	2704.53	1	88.49	0.20	
20.	Rajasthan	8(—2)*	4692.81	2346.01	6	240.24	12.22	
21.	Sikkim	NIL	—	—	NIL	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	NIL	—	—	2	103.75	29.53	
23.	Tripura	NIL	—	—	3	154.00	92.96	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	19(—1)*	7539.44	3339.74	2	54.81	39.99	
25.	West Bengal	4(—1)*	2037.41	938.83	17	90.42	60.78	
Total		172	103186.89	39003.29	240	8283.62	4424.12	
		—10*						
		162						

* Deduction for Inter State Projects counted more than once.

Irrigation Capacity

+
*203. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA:
SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of irrigated land in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the details of the States which are lagging behind in achieving the national average of irrigation capacity;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bridge the gap during the Ninth Five Year Plan period; and

(d) the extent to which the additional irrigation facility is likely to be provided in the said States particularly in

Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) As per Land Use Statistics brought out by the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1995-96 (latest), State-wise details of Net Irrigated Area (NIA), Net Sown Area (NSA) and their relative percentage are given in Annexure-I attached.

(c) Keeping in view the need to cover additional areas under irrigation, the Government has taken/proposed to take various policy and programme initiatives. These include revision to National Water Policy (1987), Command Area Development Programme, preparation of National Perspectives for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit areas, water management practices, promoting efficient and economic use of water for various

purposes, emphasis on water conservation through various methods including use of latest technologies and peoples' participation in management of water for diverse use. Besides, the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) recently approved by the National Development Council has one of the strategies of irrigation development to complete all on-going projects, particularly those which were started during pre-Fifth and Fifth Plan period as a time bound programme to yield benefits from the investments already made. In keeping with the strategy, additional areas will be covered under irrigation facilities through expeditious completion of selected on-going major and medium irrigation and multipurpose projects for which Accelerated Irrigated Benefits Programme (AIBP) launched by Govt. of India in 1996-97 is being continued in the Ninth Plan. State-wise details of release of Central Loan Assistance under AIBP during the last three years are given in Annexure-II attached.

(d) The provisional targets for creation of additional irrigation potential in the States including Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat during the Ninth Five Year Plan as projected in the Ninth Five Year Plan document are given in Annexure-III attached.

Annexure I

State-wise Net Irrigated Area (NIA), Net Sown Area (NSA) and Percentage of NIA to NSA

(In thousand hectares)

Sl. No.	States	Net Sown Area (NSA)	Net Irrg. Area (NIA)	% of NIA to NSA
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10637	4123	38.76
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	185	36	19.46
3.	Assam	2780	572	20.57
4.	Bihar	7321	3680	50.27
5.	Goa	139	23	

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Gujarat	9609	3002	31.24
7.	Haryana	3586	2761	76.99
8.	Himachal Pradesh	568	101	17.78
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	734	386	52.59
10.	Karnataka	10420	2302	22.09
11.	Kerala	2265	342	15.10
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19752	5928	30.01
13.	Maharashtra	17911	2567	14.33
14.	Manipur	140	65	46.43
15.	Meghalaya	206	45	21.84
16.	Mizoram	109	7	6.42
17.	Nagaland	211	62	29.38
18.	Orissa	6210	2090	33.65
19.	Punjab	4139	3847	92.94
20.	Rajasthan	16575	5232	31.56
21.	Sikkim	95	16	16.84

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Tamil Nadu	5342	2625	49.14
23.	Tripura	277	35	12.64
24.	Uttar Pradesh	17399	11675	67.10
25.	West Bengal	5462	1911	34.99
Total States		142072	53433	37.61
Total UTs		143	75	52.45
Grand Total		142215	53508	37.62

Note: Figures are as per Land Use Statistics brought out by Ministry of Agriculture for 1995-96 (latest) and are *Provisional*.

Annexure II

Statement showing the Central Loan Assistance (CLA) released to various States under AIBP during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of State	CLA released during		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 till date
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35.25	74.00	79.67
2.	Assam	5.23	12.40	13.95
3.	Bihar	13.50	14.04	12.03
4.	Goa	—	5.25	—
5.	Gujarat	74.773	196.90	217.71

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Haryana	32.50	12.00	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	6.50	2.50
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.30	—	—
9.	Karnataka	61.25	90.50	83.50
10.	Kerala	3.75	15.00	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	63.25	114.50	85.50
12.	Maharashtra	14.00	55.00	40.30
13.	Manipur	4.30	26.00	—
14.	Orissa	48.45	85.00	31.25
15.	Punjab	67.50	100.00	—
16.	Rajasthan	2.675	42.00	53.47
17.	Tripura	3.773	5.10	3.05
18.	Tamil Nadu	20.00	—	—
19.	Uttar Pradesh	43.50	78.00	46.50
20.	West Bengal	5.00	20.00	10.00
Grand Total		500.00	952.19	679.43

AIBP was launched by Govt. of India in 1996-97 for providing loan assistance to the States for accelerated implementation of large irrigation and multipurpose projects.

Scope:

1. Projects costing more than Rs. 500.00 crore or more and beyond the resource capability of the States.
2. Projects in the advanced stage of construction and with just a little additional resources could be completed.

Eligibility:

1. Projects which have received investment clearance from Planning Commission.
2. States are to provide matching share from their own resources.

Annexure III

State-wise details of targets for creation of irrigation potential through Major, Medium & Minor irrigation projects during IX Plan

(In thousand hectares)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Creation of Potential through		
		Major & Medium	Minor	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	579.13	28.90	608.03
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	23.00	23.00
3.	Assam	6.50	12.84	19.34
4.	Bihar	492.00	205.25	697.25
5.	Goa	16.22	3.02	19.24
6.	Gujarat	1867.00	70.10	1937.10
7.	Haryana	197.71	80.64	278.35
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3.00	6.00	9.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	29.90	21.00	50.90
10.	Karnataka	1109.88	155.00	1264.88
11.	Kerala	373.12	50.18	423.30
12.	Madhya Pradesh	384.75	150.00	534.75
13.	Maharashtra	1755.00	528.00	2283.00
14.	Manipur	50.38	15.00	65.38

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Meghalaya	3.88	8.82	12.70
16.	Mizoram	0.00	1.85	1.85
17.	Nagaland	4.50	14.30	18.80
18.	Orissa	915.39	89.60	1004.99
19.	Punjab	126.25	241.61	367.86
20.	Rajasthan	469.26	39.44	508.70
21.	Sikkim	0.00	4.50	4.50
22.	Tamil Nadu	4.80	11.57	16.37
23.	Tripura	22.92	16.00	38.92
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1000.00	5000.00	6000.00
25.	West Bengal	395.00	450.00	845.00
Total States		9806.59	7226.62	17033.21
Total UTs		5.20	17.11	22.31
Grand Total		9811.79	7243.73	17055.52

Note: The figures are provisional as projected in the IX Plan document and are to be firmed up by Planning Commission.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT: Honourable Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister why our irrigation projects, which are pending for three years, are not being cleared for such a long time? My second question is that Rajasthan Canal and Narmada Project are the two important projects for Rajasthan. Now an

amount of Rupees 5,000 crore is needed for Rajasthan Canal but even Rupees 1,000 crore have not been provided in the Ninth Plan. I would like to know from the Minister that by when Government propose to complete Narmada Project and Rajasthan Canal Project?

By when these projects would be cleared which are pending for the last three years?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are several reasons for the delay in clearing various irrigation projects. One of the reasons is that when the State Governments submit project reports to the Union Government, those project reports do not conform to the norms that are laid down by the Centre. As such these reports are returned. Another reason is that the State Governments do not reply in time the points raised by the Centre. Third reason is that they require clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The fourth reason being non availability of the details and programme in regard to the necessary action to be taken in respect of the population of the area that is affected due to the projects and non availability of the requisite resources. The Union Government accord their clearance keeping in view all these things. So far as Narmada Project and Rajasthan Canal Project is concerned work on both these projects is going on. Regarding Narmada Project you know that a case was pending in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has given its decision in regard to the prescribed height of the project. Thereafter it would gain some momentum.

Rajasthan Government frequently asks for assistance in regard to Rajasthan Canal. The Centre has got limited resources and yet they are providing. I have not got the details about its completion. The same would be made available to the honourable member and to the Parliament.

SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT: Since these two projects are under consideration of the Government, what are the reasons for not clearing these projects?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding Narmada Project a case was pending in the Supreme Court. And any progress is possible only after the decision. It's clearance has already been issued. Clearance in respect of Rajasthan Canal has also been issued. No clearance has been withheld.

SHRI BALI RAM KASHYAP: Honourable Speaker, Sir, only three projects viz. Sindh, Upper Beda and Bargi Diversion has been sanctioned in Madhya Pradesh. Besides these, there are other 9 big projects lying pending with the Centre. Would the honourable Minister throw some light on them.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 9 projects in respect of Madhya Pradesh are pending of which 2 projects are under consideration and 7 projects have been sanctioned by Technical Advisory Committee with certain conditions. Comments of Madhya Pradesh Government are required thereon. As and when their comments are received, these projects would also be cleared.

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Madhya Pradesh is the biggest state of the country in terms of area. The Central Government has always shown a biased attitude towards this State. The Prime Minister belongs to Madhya Pradesh...(*Interruptions*). Hundreds of projects are lying incomplete there. No provision for these projects have been made in this year's budget. The Prime Minister also has not taken any care in this regard. Had he taken care, then provisions in the budget could be included, for many projects. These more than 22 projects are lying pending as on today.

In my Parliamentary constituency more than fifty per cent work of Mahi Project has been completed. A canal has been constructed, but money has not been released so far for the Dam side. Similarly money for Dam side of Jowat Project has also not been released. What are the reasons for not releasing money for tribal areas and why Government shows biased attitude towards such areas. Only 30 per cent money is provided for Adivasi areas of Madhya Pradesh with which only two-three per cent land can be irrigated. On the one hand Government of India say that tribal areas would be given priority and on the other hand the Government do not pay any attention towards them. Madhya Pradesh is an Adivasi dominated region where more than 2 crore Adivasi live. They are entirely dependent on irrigation...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are 20 members who want to ask questions on this.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA: I would like to know why the incomplete projects have not been included in the budget? Whether the Government would provide more funds for old projects during this year? As I have mentioned about Mahi and Jowat Projects, by when the Government would provide more funds so that the work is completed at an early date.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Union Government does not have any intention to discriminate with any State.

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA: Is this the reason why zero per cent allocation has been made in the budget?

SHRI SOMPAL: So far the Mahi Project is concerned, its estimated cost is Rupees 192.85 crores. Rupees 41 crores 99 lakhs had been spent on this project by the end of the Eighth Plan. The requisite 21 per cent amount of expenditure on this project has been made. This project

has been included in the Ninth Plan as a ship-over project and as such necessary funds are being provided in the Ninth Plan. The details would be made available to the House and the honourable member.

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, the honourable Minister has told about Mahi Project. There is one Jowat Project also. My Constituency is 87 per cent Adivasi dominated area. If funds will not be given for such areas, then how Adivasi people could pay attention towards agriculture. Government of India is fully accountable towards tribal areas. It is also provided in the Constitution. Governor Sahib, the representative of Rastrapati ji is sitting in the State. Only 30 per cent money is provided for tribal areas with which only three per cent land is irrigated. Why there is such a discrimination with the tribal areas? How much money would be provided for the tribal areas alone?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, assistance is provided for the projects. The Union Government certainly want to clear and provide grants for irrigation projects meant for tribal areas.

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA: I am asking about the projects pertaining to the tribal areas? I am not asking anything else.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker Sir, the honourable member has said that the Government discriminates with the tribal areas. But things are not so. The Government of India does not keep such details with them as to how much money is given to the tribal areas. Regarding Mahi Project, I have told you, the Union Government provides money for the projects. It is the subject matter of the State Government as to on which item how much money is spent and what are the components. State Government regulate such things.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: In the statement referred to reply to part (a), it was mentioned that in respect of Kerala, one major project and one medium project are pending. Complaints are awaited from the State Government and the same are under examination.

Then, in the same statement it is stated that there is one major project which is awaiting clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the names of these projects and also the position of progress in respect of Mahe Canal.

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, there are two pending projects in Kerala in the major category and there is one pending

project in the medium category. So, in all they are three and out of the two which are in the major category, one is under examination and one has been accepted by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources, subject to certain observations which are to be complied with by the Government of Kerala.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, I would like to know the names of these projects and also the position of progress of Mahe Canal Irrigation Project.

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, I will provide this information later on, because there are several hundred projects in the entire country.

[Translation]

SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, four major and one medium irrigation project of Karnataka are pending with the Government. Sir, I want to know from the Hon. Minister, through you, for how long these projects are pending with the Government and why the State Government or the Union Government are delaying the clearance of these projects? During the 8th five year plan, out of Rs. 11 thousand crore only five hundred crore rupees were spent which is even less than 10 per cent of the total amount, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state that if this continues to be the pace of work by what time will these projects be completed?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are five irrigation projects of Karnataka pending with the Government and out of which four are major irrigation projects and one is medium irrigation project. These five projects are being examined. I will give the information to the Hon. member and the House as to when these projects will be completed, if a separate question is asked about any particular pending project. If I am given time, I can give information about many such projects.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir if we see Annexure-I of the reply to Question No. 203, it says that the average of net irrigation land in the country is 37.61 per cent and it looks like that there are 15 States which are below the national average. If we see Annexure-II, it says as to how much money has been allotted to respective States. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is ready to consider taking up some special programme to bring those States, which are below the national average, somewhat nearer to the national average.

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, a programme has already been initiated by the Central Government which is known as Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and it was initiated in the year 1996-97. Under this programme, the Government had undertaken that all the projects which are nearing completion and which can be completed within the next four crop seasons should be provided assistance by the Central Government and it is known as Central loan assistance. The modality for providing that assistance is that 25 per cent is given by the Government of India and the State Government has to provide a matching amount. When they spend double this amount, then the second tranche is released.

Under this programme, it is proposed that 9.8 million hectare additional land is brought under irrigation. The States are availing of this. Last year, an amount of Rs. 1,500 crore was earmarked. But unfortunately, that amount has not been utilised fully. We are trying to modify the scheme to make it more favourable so that the States could make a better use of this.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I entirely agree with you. But the question is that if the national average is 37 per cent and suppose the average of Tripura is 12 per cent and that of Mizoram is less than 6 per cent, we have to take up some special and definite programme for the States to bring them somewhere near the national average in the next two, three or five years.

SHRI SOMPAL: The irrigation projects are mostly handled by the States. It is a State subject. So, the States have also to provide the amount.

Then, it depends on the availability of water, the terrain and other things. Suppose it is a hill area. You can never achieve hundred per cent irrigation.

Similarly, if it is an area where there is no water available, hundred per cent achievement is not possible. So, it depends upon the terrain, the topography, the geography, the water availability in terms of river flows, other storages and rainfall. Having reference to that, it is a very complicated thing. Nothing can be said that by such-and-such time, this much can be achieved....
(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the information made available to us by the Government, Punjab and Haryana are the forerunners in increasing their irrigation capacity while in the case of larger States Madhya Pradesh comes last and Bihar and Uttar Pradesh come thereafter. While mentioning Madhya Pradesh one of my friends described Madhya Pradesh as the birth place of the Hon. Prime Minister.

Coincidentally, Uttar Pradesh is the birth place of our Prime Minister and Madhya Pradesh was his field of action for some time and till today....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: His field of action is Nagpur.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I agree with you. Today, he represents Uttar Pradesh in the Parliament and we along with Uttar Pradesh are proud of the fact that after a gap, someone from Uttar Pradesh is adorning the chair of the Prime Minister of India. In such a situation, as per your information, there is nearly 33 per cent unirrigated land in Uttar Pradesh. As per the letters received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, there are more than a dozen such projects which are pending with the Government of India for certain reasons. Tehri project is a major project which will provide a big opportunity of changing the fate of Uttar Pradesh but it is pending for some reasons or without any reasons. According to your strategy, the schemes which are pending since the fifth plan and the sixth plan will be given priority in the ninth plan. A strategy worth rupees six thousand crore has been formulated for irrigation in Uttar Pradesh in the major and minor irrigation sectors. I specifically want to know from the Hon. Irrigation Minister that what strategy has been adopted by the Government of India to make the Tehri project operational immediately, so that Uttar Pradesh can reap the benefits of this project? How much time will be taken to complete it?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mohan Singh ji has said that Uttar Pradesh is a backward state but percentage-wise Uttar Pradesh stands third—Punjab stands first with 92.9%, Haryana comes second with 76.99%, and Uttar Pradesh stands third. Hon. Member is wrong when he says that Uttar Pradesh is backward. Uttar Pradesh is one among the advanced States in the country.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Even after giving 7-8 Prime Minister, U.P. has shown no development.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Swamy, 67 per cent irrigation is a significant achievement while the national average is 37 per cent.

So far as Tehri project is concerned, the Union Government and the Planning Commission have cleared it. Resources are being provided as and when available but there have been certain problems due to the environmentalists. There was an agitation against this project some time ago but now there is no such problem. The work on this project is in progress now and efforts are being made to complete this project soon.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Hon. Minister has not given the reply to the main question.

SHRI SOMPAL: I have told about the Tehri Project that the Union Government has cleared it and the work on this project is in progress and an allotment of 6 thousand crore rupees to the Uttar Pradesh Government bears enough proof in itself that it is not being neglected.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is here. We are discussing a very important area. Question relates to the clearances of projects. Since my childhood I have been hearing that so many projects are not being cleared by the Government in power. At the initiative of the hon. Prime Minister, the Cauvery issue had been solved across the table. Sir, wherever the inter-State water dispute is there, the projects are not cleared by the CWC. If one Chief Minister agrees, the other Chief Minister will not agree to solve the problem.

Everyday, we discuss about removal of poverty. Once we are able to provide water to the whole country, then we will be able to eradicate poverty. It is a very important subject. First you prepare a State-wise list as to what are the projects pending before the Centre, call the Chief Ministers, the Chief Engineers, the Secretaries, sit across the table, and then solve the problem. Otherwise, as the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture I am dealing with water resources also, it will be very difficult to solve all these problems.

So, my suggestion, through you, Sir, is that you call all the Chief Ministers.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion, not a supplementary question.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: If my suggestion is accepted by the Government, then all the problems would be solved, and all the projects would be cleared. So, the Prime Minister must interact on this subject. Otherwise, it would be very difficult to solve this problem.

Sir, you are aware about Andhra Pradesh. I belong to Srikakulam. Vansadhara Stage-II is pending for the last thirty years with the Centre. All the Chief Minister have agreed to solve the problem but still the project is pending with the Centre. It is a very important example. So my request to the hon. Prime Minister is that he should react and solve this problem.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, his supplementary is this. When will they call the meeting? Let them tell us.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Yerrannaidu is right in his statement that various States have disputes over common river waters.

[English]

Wherever the States co-share the rivers, their basins are also common. In those cases, there are problems and the Centre has always been taking an initiative. He himself acknowledged that the hon. Prime Minister had called a meeting of all the four State Chief Ministers and had come to an agreement. Some settlement had already been arrived at.

So far as the Vansadhara Stage-II is concerned—it is an inter-State river dispute between Orissa and Andhra Pradesh—the tangle has not yet been solved. We wish that the States amongst themselves resolve such issues but in case they need assistance from Centre, the Centre is prepared to take an initiative.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely sorry to state before this august House that various projects and schemes submitted by the State of Kerala in various Ministries are pending clearance, specially, irrigation and hydel, and power projects.

Sir, nature is very kind to us. We get plenty of rains. But due to non-clearance from the Central Government, we could not use them scientifically.

So, the State of Kerala still remains a problem State.

May I request the hon. Prime Minister to give some directive to expedite the clearance of projects submitted by the State of Kerala? May I also request the hon. Minister for Agriculture to look into the matter to clear the irrigation projects as soon as possible?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the status of the projects which have been submitted by the Kerala Government has already been stated by me during my reply to an earlier query. If the hon. Member wants any specific information about any specific project that will be provided to him. He can send me a letter and I will immediately reply to him.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, it turns out from the tables of the Statement laid on the Table of the House by the hon. Minister that in the Ninth Plan the number of major and medium irrigation projects listed against the State of Tamil Nadu is nil. Is this due to the fact that the Government of Tamil Nadu has not asked

for any project or is the Government not in a position to sanction it? Is it the dereliction of duty on the part the Government of Tamil Nadu or obstinacy of the Centre?

In this connection, I would like to know why the Centre is not taking any step to solve the Mullaperiyar Dam Water Level issue...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY: Is it the way the hon. Members behave in this House...(*Interruptions*) This is not good.....(*Interruptions*) The hon. Minister is to reply to this question...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: They are not objecting but everybody is interested to put a supplementary.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, regarding the pending projects, the Central Government can give the information which we have and why the State has not submitted any proposal can be found out. But this was the status which I have...

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: That means, the State did not submit any proposal, that is what the hon. Minister is saying.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMPAL: I can not say offhand. It has to be found out from the State.

Regarding Mullaperiyar issue, Mr. Speaker, Sir, Dr. Subramanian Swamy is already in communication with me, I am trying to find out the information and I will apprise him of that...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY: Sir, it is not a personal matter to speak with Dr. Swamy only...(*Interruptions*) It is not an individual matter...(*Interruptions*) The hon. Minister should inform the House about it...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Just now there was a debate between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh over the Prime Minister, his field of action and his birth place, but I am to say that Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee is "Bihari" by name and so my claim is justified. Sir, there are nine irrigation projects of Bihar out of which 8 are major projects and one is medium project...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvansh Prasad ji, why do you speak so loudly, is it so needed?

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since so many people are standing, I have to speak loudly.

Sir, there are nine projects of North Bihar, 9 lakh hectare land is the regions of Gandak, Kosi and Ghaghara rivers is affected with water logging and the Gandak Phase-2 scheme is pending with the Government of India. I want to know from the Government that Bihar which is affected due to floods every year, the fertile land gets destroyed, the farmers suffer heavy losses, crops get destroyed and to solve these problems, nine projects alongwith Gandak water clearance project have been prepared. Hundreds of acres of land is affected due to water logging. By what time you will clear these projects and help the State Government so that the farmers and poor people of Bihar could get some respite...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMPAL: I do not have any information regarding the problem of water logging in some areas of Bihar which has been mentioned by Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji. If he gives me the details of those areas and of the scheme sent to the Government, I could give him the desired information. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You call a meeting of all the members from Bihar...(*Interruptions*). We will tell you each and everything. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the lady Member to put her supplementary. You should not obstruct her.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: We are not being given opportunity to speak...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Sharadji has spoken about Maharashtra.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE: Please let me speak...(*Interruptions*) Gujarat has fulfilled all the criterion and completed all the procedures regarding the Narmada Project. Regarding the problem of the displaced persons even the foreign journalists were impressed by the endeavours of Gujarat Government in this direction. But I would like to know from the Government that whether

any steps have been taken against the States which have not fulfilled the criterion and completed the procedure and are related to the Narmada project.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as Narmada is concerned, I would like to repeat my answer that this case was pending with the Supreme Court till recently. The Supreme Court has recently given a verdict in this regard. Now, there will be speedy progress in this matter. Hon. Member has rightly stated that those States will be given priority which have fulfilled the criterion and completed the phases and established procedure. There will be no negligence on the part of the Government in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Chandumajra, please put your supplementary.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say to the Hon. Minister that a big volume of water of Raavi river is flowing to Pakistan. This water is very valuable for Punjab because it is an agricultural State. Many projects are being drawn to store this water but none of these projects has yet been finalised. Their Dam project was prepared for this purpose but enough funds have not been provided to complete it. I want to know that what steps are being taken to store the water flowing to Pakistan. Secondly, river Ghaggar flows the border of Punjab and Haryana which ruins the Khanauri, Patara and Batala areas of Punjab and many areas of Haryana during rainy season. A Ghaggar project has been prepared by Punjab Government...*(Interruptions)*. I want to know the time by which this project will be completed. If this project is completed, this water could be used for irrigating small areas and the crops worth crores of rupees, which get destroyed in the floods, can be saved. I want to know by what time the Government of India will release funds for this project and what is the scheme prepared by the Government in this regard?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as Punjab is concerned, according to the information I have given in the reply, as per percentage, Punjab stands first in terms of irrigated land. Around 92 percent land is irrigated in Punjab. ...*(Interruptions)* There is some contribution of canal irrigation also in Punjab. A major problem is raising its head in Punjab as underground water in a vast area is coming to surface at such an alarming rate that in the coming few years several lakh hectares of land would submerge in water. So far as the question of Their Dam, for utilization of Raavi water, is concerned, according to

my information it will be completed by the year 1999 or 2000. After that Raavi water could be fully utilized for Punjab. So far as the question of Ghaggar is concerned, if any project has been sent by the Punjab Government, I will give him the information regarding it, but first give it in writing...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Prime Minister is present here, it would be better if he gives reply to my question. Anyway, I would like to know from the Minister that work on S.Y.L. canal is at a standstill for the last 4-5 years and Rs. 400 crore have already been spent on it. Canals are ready in Haryana to lift the water from this canal. Will the Minister be pleased to state when the work on the S.Y.L. canal will be resumed in Punjab and by what time it will be completed and how much amount has been allocated therefor in the budget...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SURENDER SINGH: Sir, I also associate myself with this issue.

[Translation]

...*(Interruptions)* much injustice is being done with Haryana. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, there are many Members who would like to ask supplementary on this subject. If you have no objection, Half-an Hour Discussion can be allowed.

SHRI SOMPAL: I do not mind.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL: Hon. Bhajan Lalji has asked the question...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are allowing Half-an-Hour Discussion. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL: Bhajan Lalji has asked about the completion of Satluj-Yamuna Link Project....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Half-an-Hour Discussion. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL: There is some difference of opinions between the Punjab and Haryana Governments regarding the Satluj-Yamuna Link Project. Hon. Home Minister had convened a meeting of Northern Zonal Council in Surajkund last month to resolve the differences. This issue was discussed extensively in that meeting also. The Union Government want to resolve these differences at the earliest so that the so long pending project could be completed. The Union Government is endeavouring to bring unanimity of opinions between the two States and as soon as unanimity of opinions comes, the progress in the work on this project would become possible.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Half-an-Hour Discussion. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

Suicide by Farmers

*204. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that suicide was committed by a large number of farmers in various States especially in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh during last three years;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have appointed any high level Committee to investigate the reasons for large scale suicide by farmers in various States; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government to curb this suicidal trend by farmers.?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) The information on suicidal deaths, as reported by various States, is indicated below:—

Andhra Pradesh

No Suicide cases were reported during 1996-97, From 1.12.1997 to 30.6.1998, there were reports of 315 suicides by the farmers. 43 cases of suicides have been reported from 30.6.1998 onwards.

Karnataka

60 suicide cases by farmers came to the notice of the State Government in the year 1998.

Punjab

As per State Police Statistics, 349 and 418 farmer committed suicide during 1996 and 1997, respectively. 3 cases of suicide were noticed during November, 1998.

Rajasthan

No suicide by farmers was reported during the last one year.

Uttar Pradesh

No suicide was committed by farmers during the last three years.

The other State Governments have been requested to supply the requisite information.

(c) A Study Group was constituted by the Government of India in January, 1998 to examine the issues relating to distress caused by indebtedness of farmers in Andhra Pradesh. The State Government of Punjab got conducted a detailed study at the base level with a view to know the real cause of suicides by the farmers.

(d) The Study Group constituted by the Central Government recommended several measures for action by the Central Government, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Banks, and NABARD which include assessment of the agricultural credit so as to enlarge the flow of