

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The target of employment in the Ninth Five Year Plan Period is not fixed by level of literacy of those in the labour force.

[English]

Saving-cum-Relief Scheme for fishermen

3204. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to continue the Saving-cum-Relief Scheme for marine fishermen;

(b) if so, whether the Government also propose to extend its benefits to the inland fishermen and fisherwomen; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) While the issue of extending the Saving-cum-Relief Scheme, which presently covers only marine fisherfolk, to the inland fisherfolk is engaging our attention, there is no proposal to extend the Scheme to fisherwomen engaged either in retail marketing of fish or in other allied fisheries activities.

Veligonda Irrigation Project

3205. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal in regard to Veligonda Irrigation Project to the Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) :

(a) and (b) The Project report of Veligonda Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 978.96 Crores was submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to Central Water Commission in March '96 for providing irrigation benefits to an area of about, 1,77,200 hectares.

(c) The Project report was sent back to State Government after detailed examination in November, 96 on account of the following reasons :-

(i) Availability of water was not established in the report.

(ii) Proper provisions of environmental management and monitoring plans including rehabilitation and compensatory afforestation was not made in the estimate.

Baijhal Irrigation Project

3206. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to execute Baijhal Irrigation Project in Orissa;

(b) the estimated cost of the project and funds provided by the Centre for the execution of the project;

(c) whether there has been an inordinate delay in the execution of the project; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for its expeditious completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Baijhal project being a minor irrigation project is not required to be referred to the Ministry of Water Resources by the State Government, as the minor irrigation projects are approved, executed and funded by the State Governments themselves.

[Translation]

Forestry and Orchard

3207. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ :

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote agro forestry and orchards in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) In so far as promotion of Orchards is concerned, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on "Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid zone Fruits" since 8th Five Year Plan. Under this scheme, assistance is being provided for production of quality planting material through small and large nurseries, establishment of tissue culture