

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

units in the public and private sector, area expansion, improving productivity of old/senile orchards, taking up of publicity measures and training of farmers. The scheme was launched in all the States during 1997-98 with an outlay of Rs. 17.00 crore and the same is being continued during 1998-99 with an outlay of Rs. 25.00 crore in all the States including Uttar Pradesh. The position regarding release of funds to the Government of Uttar Pradesh during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is as follows :-

(Rs in lakh)		
Year	Allocatio	Funds Released
1997-98	90.39	—
1998-99	122.84	20.00 (till 2/99).

As regards Agro-forestry, requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Scientists of ICAR

3208. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that over 95 per cent of the scientists of the Indian Agricultural Research Institutes have resigned from the faculty;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to alleviate the discontentment amongst the scientists of the ICAR?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Scientists were agitating for early implementation of revised pay scales and the same have already been implemented vide Council's letter No. 1 (15)/98-Per.IV dated 27.2.99.

Closure of NAFED

3209. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NAFED is on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Funds under MPLADS

3210 SHRIAMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds under MPLADS (Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme) have been revised;

(b) if so, the amount allocated to each of MPs as per the revised scheme;

(c) whether the amount is not released or made available for this scheme to MPs in the beginning of each financial year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the amount released to each of the MPs of West Bengal during the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 and proposed to be released to each of MPs during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) An announcement was made by the Government in both the Houses of Parliament on 23.12.1998 conveying the decision to increase the allocation of MPLADS funds from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 2 crore per MP per year from the year 1998-99. Action has been taken for obtaining additional budget provision for releasing the funds at enhanced rate. At present funds are released @ Rs. 1 crore per MP for 1998-99.

(c) to (e) As per criteria approved from the year 1997-98, funds are released in two instalments of Rs. 50 lakhs each on receipt of expenditure statement from the concerned District Collector showing an unsanctioned balance of less than Rs. 50 lakhs. Statements I and II indicating position of release of funds in respect of Lok Sabha MPs and Rajya Sabha MPs of West Bengal during 1997-98 and 1998-99 are enclosed. For the year 1999-2000 MP-wise funds will be released in two instalments depending on physical and financial progress.