

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has given clearance to the Government of Tamil Nadu for raising the height of Mullaperiyar Dam from 136 ft. to 152 ft.;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to protect the interest of Tamil Nadu unilaterally without taking into account the interest of Kerala in this regard;

(c) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu removed earth in front of the Spillway at Mullaperiyar Dam; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to protect the interest of Kerala in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Centre is not aware of any removal of earth in front of the Spillway of Mullaperiyar dam by Tamil Nadu. However, recently on 26.05.1998, in a meeting held in the Ministry of Water Resources, Central Government extended an offer to help the two states to resolve the issue through mutual understanding.

Production of Cotton

5145. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Changes sought in cotton crop forecasting methods" appearing in 'Business Standard' dated May 5, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government to the observations made; and

(c) the deficiencies in the present method along with distinct advantages in the new method proposed to be adopted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The news item captioned "Changes sought in Cotton Crop forecasting methods" appeared in the "Business Standard" dated 8th May, 1998. As per the news items, the estimates of the 1997-98 crop (October to September) has been revised downwards from 17.2 million bales made at the beginning of the season to 14.8 million bales, which is also subject to further revision.

The above observation is based on the advance estimates put up by the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) under the Chairmanship of Textiles Commissioner. The CAB had estimated the production of cotton at 16.9 million bales on 19.12.97 and revised it to 14.8 million bales on 6.3.98. The

CAB in their meeting held on 10th July 1998 have further revised the figure to 15.3 million bales. The revisions in advance estimates by CAB are based on the information furnished by its Members and as per latest information based on changing agro-climatic condition, etc.

No change in the method of estimation of Cotton production is contemplated by CAB.

[Translation]

MPLADS

5146. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any time-frame has been fixed for the implementation of the scheme recommended by Members of Parliament under MPLADS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have ascertained the reasons for tardy progress in the implementation of the above scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to set up a special cell at the district level to monitor and ensure the speedy implementation of the various schemes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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) The revised Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme stipulate that as far as possible all sanctions for works should be accorded within 45 days from the date of receipt of the proposal from the concerned MP. However, time-frame could not be fixed for completion of projects as various types of works are taken up under the scheme requiring varying duration for their completion.

(c) and (d) The progress of MPLADS works has been affected due to various reasons such as application of Model Code of Conduct due to various elections, late receipt of recommendations from MPs, change in recommendation by MPs, red-tape in collectors' Offices, non-availability of land, etc.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal to set up a Special Cell at the District-level to monitor MPLAD Schemes. However, the District Collector and other officers of district administration and implementing agencies are required to monitor implementation of these works regularly including visits to work sites.