

agricultural credit in the Maharashtra State is routed through the co-operative credit structure, of which Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank is the Apex Bank. The total amount distributed for crop loan during 1984-85 was Rs. 315 crores, while it was Rs. 565 crores during 1988-89 and is expected to be nearly Rs. 625 crores during 1989-90. The State Co-operative Bank has satisfied all the eligibility conditions of NABARD in obtaining refinance. The NABARD which, after a long time, had begun refinance to the State Co-operative Bank during the current year, has stopped it abruptly towards the end of January 1990, objecting to the State Government's scheme of lowering the rate of interest to six per cent on crop loans up to Rs. 10,000. The State Government is now introducing a scheme of production incentive, to be operated by creating a fund with contribution from the State Government and the Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank. The effect of stoppage of refinance by NABARD will result in denial of credit to a large number of farmers, and agricultural production, consequently, will suffer. The matter has been taken up with the Government of India but no action has been taken. I urge the Government to take final decision soon.

[Translation]

(iv) Need to allocate adequate funds for timely completion of Mohane Reservoir Project

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA (Chaitra): In Gaya district of Bihar, under the Mohane reservoir project two dams and one barrage are proposed to be constructed on Mohane river at Armadag and Brandi. The completion of this project will provide irrigation to 80,300 hectares of land in Barachatti, Mohanpur, Bodh Gaya and Manpur subdivisions. It will also generate 30 MW hydel-power in Armadag and provide a permanent irrigation facility in Vdenas. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 127 crores. The project was approved by the Bihar Government during the 7th Five Year Plan. Rupees one crore has also been sanctioned. The Central Government is requested to allocate

required amount of funds for the completion of this project within the 8th Five Year Plan.

(v) Need to sanction electronic telephone exchange for Udaipur, Rajasthan

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA (Udaipur): Udaipur in Rajasthan is a place of great attraction not only for Indian tourists but also for foreign tourists. It is also an important place from the point of view of its mineral wealth and industries. Till now 6900 telephone connections have been given in Udaipur and an equal number of applicants are on the waiting list since 1982. In Rajasthan, Udaipur comes after Jaipur as far as income from telephone connections are concerned. There is a proposal to set up a cross-bar exchange to increase the number of telephone connections to 4000. The project which is to be launched in 1990-91 is likely to be completed by 1992-93. It is also proposed that an electronic telephone exchange will be provided at Udaipur in 1992-93, which will start working in just 6 months. Keeping in view the needs of the city, Udaipur should be provided with an electronic exchange.

(vi) Need to raise the amount of compensation in cases of sterilisation deaths

[English]

SHRI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): Sir, according to data supplied by the Health and Family Welfare Ministry in answer to an unstarred question on 28-3-1990, the total of post-sterilization deaths in the country during the years 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89 was 1205, 1149 of the dead being women and fifty six being men. An amount of Rs. 10,000/- each is paid to the next-of-kin of those who die due to sterilization operations, as compensation.

While it is true that the Government has stated that certain precautionary measures are being taken to minimise such accidental deaths, it is extremely unfortunate that such