

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) In a communication received from the Punjab Government in November, 1987 it was inter alia, indicated that Punjab Agro Industries Corporation-Voltas-Pepsico project will create employment for 50,000 people nationally.

(b) The requisite information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). M/s Punjab Agro Industries Corporation have intimated as follows:

The snack food unit at Channo is using potatoes locally procured from Punjab. The project has introduced contract farming under which the growers are assured of off-take at guaranteed prices. This will induce farmers to grow horticultural crops as they will have a secured market. The Company is undertaking extension work on a large scale particularly amongst tomato growers by introducing new technologies. These include introduction of improved varieties, growing of disease free nurseries, plant protection measures and frost protection. This has helped Punjab farmers to grow tomatoes in winter on a large scale for the first time. The Company plans to extend the season for tomatoes.

(e) M/s Punjab Agro Industries Corporation have indicated that it is difficult to estimate the exact number of farmers to be benefitted.

New Medical Colleges In Kerala

1459. **PROF. P.J. KURIEN:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to sanction new medical colleges in Kerala

during the year 1990-91; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b). The Central Government has no proposal to open new medical colleges in Kerala.

Water Shortage In Kerala

1460. **PROF. P.J. KURIEN:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water level in many high-lying areas in Kerala has gone-down creating acute shortage of water during summer months;

(b) whether the technology missions for drinking water has made any significant headway in the state;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to solve the problem of water shortage in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Local declines in Ground Water levels ranging from 0.01 m to 2.15 m have been observed in January, 1990 in comparison to January, 1989 in certain pockets of Kasaragod, Kozhikode, Wynad, Cannanore and Palaghat districts of Kerala.

(b) and (c). Under the National Drinking Water Mission, all villages in Kerala have been covered fully or partially except 10 "no source" problem villages which are included in the Action Plan for 1989-90.

(d) Water Supply Schemes are implemented by the State Government. However,