

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,

during 1989-90 sums of Rs. 7.41 crores and Rs. 88 lakhs have been released under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and National Drinking Water Mission, respectively.

Immunisation Programme

1461. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests have been received by Government to accord highest priority to immunisation programme in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by Government on those representations?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTARY): (a) and (b). Recognising the importance of reducing morbidity and mortality related to vaccine preventable diseases very high priority has been accorded to Immunization Programme as part of our effort to ensure "Health for All by 200 A.D." An outlay of Rs. 240 crores was provided for this priority programme during the 7th Plan. This Programme shall continue to receive priority attention during 8th Plan also.

Price of Pulses

1462. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the average prevailing prices of each type of dal both wholesale and retail, during November and December, 1989 and January and February, 1990; and

(b) the steps taken to keep these prices in check and increase production thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):

(a) The required information is given in the Statements I, II, and III below.

(b) Government is regularly reviewing the prices. Measures taken to increase production of pulses are mentioned in the Statement at Annexure-II attached. However, availability of pulses at present is being augmented by imports. The custom duty of pulses was reduced from 35% to 10% from 1.11.1989 so that the prices of indigenous pulses are also brought down.