

(a) whether Upper and Lower Tapti River Irrigation Projects have not been cleared so far;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in according necessary clearance;

(c) whether the States of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have agreed to these projects; and

(d) if not, the steps taken or being taken to bring about agreement between the two States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). While Upper Tapi Stage-I project was given investment clearance in March, 1970, Upper Tapi Stage-II Project received at the Centre in August, 1984 was returned to the State Government in November, 1988, for compliance of the observations of Central Water Commission. The State Government has yet to submit the modified proposal for appraisal.

(c) Both the State Governments have agreed, in principle, to take up Upper Tapi Stage-II as a joint venture project.

(d) Does not arise.

### **Upliftment of Tribal People**

1468. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the efforts of the Integrated Tribal Development Agency and other bodies to uplift tribal people are often exploited by middlemen and get negated; and

(b) the steps being contemplated by Government to remove the middlemen from

the plans for upliftment of the tribal people?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) and (b). It is a fact that in spite of the setting up of ITDPs to protect the Scheduled Tribes interests the existence of middlemen in marketing of forest and other produce and in the field of credit have prevented the Scheduled Tribes from getting a fair return for their produce as well as from getting cheap credit.

For removal of middlemen, institutional arrangements for marketing of tribal produce have already been created in several States. The States have set up State Tribal Development Cooperative Marketing Development Federations for this purpose. The Government of India has set up the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) as an apex body, at the national level, of these federations in August, 1987. The TRIFED has handled 12 items of tribal produce during the first year of its operation. It has also been made the canalising agency for export of gum karaya and has also been declared the central nodal agency for organising collection, processing, storage and development of oilseeds of trees and of forest origin.

Besides, 16 Tribal Sub-Plan States/UTs have enacted laws/regulations to regulate the business of moneylending and to give debt relief. The Working Group on development and welfare of Scheduled Tribes during Eighth Five Year Plan have recommended that the existing laws/regulations of moneylending should be strictly enforced and marketing of produce/supply of agricultural inputs, and supply of essential commodities should be arranged through cooperatives or through other institutional frame work. The recommendations have been brought to the notice of tribal sub-Plan States.