

sprinklers in Cardamom estates has been stopped;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to extend it for the current year also because of the present drought; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) The Spices Board had the following schemes for subsidy for construction of small dams & sprinklers etc:-

- (i) Western Ghat Development Programme, Udumbanchola, Kerala.

This programme commenced in 1985-86 and was in operation upto 1989-90. However, payments to applicants who could not complete construction in 89-90 would be made in 1990-91.

- (ii) Western Ghat Development Programme Karnataka.

This programme would be continued in the current financial years also.

- (iii) Scheme for developing water sources and irrigating cardamom plantations (Drought Scheme).

This scheme was approved for implementation in 1989-90 also on year-to-year basis. No proposal to continue the scheme during 1990-91 has been received from the Spices Board.

(b) and (c). At present there is no threat of drought in cardamom plantations.

Increase in Number of Judges

8232. SHRINARSINGHRAODIKSHIT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Union Government has been drawn to the new system captioned "Justice through public pressure" appearing in Times of India dated 16 April, 1990;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to increase the number of judges?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Law Commission in its 120th Report had, among others, recommended that the present strength of 10.5 Judges per million population be increased to 50 Judges per million population. The report has been circulated to all the State Government/Ut Administration. so far as the recommendations relating to High Courts are concerned, it has been decided not to accept the proposal to increase judge-strength only on the basis of population.

Assistance by Tea Board under Tea Plantation Financial Scheme.

8233. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by the Tea Board under the Tea Plantation Financial Scheme as loan and subsidy for replantation and extension of tea area to F.E.R.A. Companies, Indian Proprietary Estates and Small