

Drought Prone Areas

*362. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to declare a district as drought prone area if most of the blocks in the district are covered under the Drought Prone Area Programme; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY):

(a) and (b). No Sir, The Block is considered as the lowest unit for demarcation of an area as drought prone. Therefore, only block of a district so demarcated are treated as drought prone area rather than the entire district.

Technology Mission on Literacy

*363. SHRIJAGANNATH PATTNAIK: Will

the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed to be achieved during the Seventh Plan under the National Literacy Mission and to what extent it has been achieved so far in Orissa.

(b) whether the State Orissa is lagging far behind in the field of literacy; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to step up the programme of educating people in that State under the Mission ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Launched on 5th May, 1988, the National Literacy Mission envisages that 30 million persons would be made literate by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan. The position regarding actual achievements during the first four years of the Seventh Plan in respect of the State of Orissa is as under:-

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Achievement (in lakhs)</i>
1.	1985-86	1.46
2.	1986-87	1.44
3.	1987-88	2.79
4.	1988-89	3.58

(b) According to 1981 census, the literacy rate in Orissa (34.23%) was lower than the National Literacy rate of 36.23%.

(c) Steps being taken to step up the adult education programme in the State of Orissa include running of :-

(i) 19 projects, each of 300 centre, under the central scheme of Rural Functional Literacy Projects; *

(ii) 12 projects, each of 300 centres, under the State Adult Education Programme;