

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** प्रलग से आप नोटिस दे दें तो मैं इसका जवाब दिला दूंगा। यह तो नीचे की बात है। लेकिन हैड से पम्प करके भी तो पानी आ सकता है।

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** I want to know whether, in formulating the scheme, he has with him the statistics about the number of villages per year for the last three years that had been supplied drinking water.

**SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:** We have got statistics and we get them from the State Governments actually. They identify problem villages. The total number of villages in the country which have to be provided safe drinking water is nearly two lakhs.

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** I asked how many villages had been provided drinking water year by year for the last three years.

**SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:** The total number of problem villages covered during 1980-81 is 23,276.

**SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN:** What is the procedure that is followed by the Government of India in approving the scheme, because we find that recommendations are made by the State Governments, but the approval of the Central Government, which is very essential in the case of certain types of rural water supply schemes, takes a very long time?

**SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:** We have laid down the criteria which we expect the State Governments to follow in identifying problem villages. There should be no safe drinking water facility within 1.6 K. M. Then a village will be identified as a problem village. That is the main criterion.

**SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:** May I know how many such problem villages in the State of West Bengal have been identified and how many of

them have been provided with drinking water? Whenever the State Government try to supply drinking water, the difficulty of rigs arises. I want to know whether you are efficient only in rigging elections and ballot boxes and you are not efficient in the matter of giving us proper rigs for supply of drinking water?

**SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:** So far as West Bengal is concerned, the total number of problem villages is 25,243.

**SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:** What is the number of villages which have been supplied with drinking water?

**SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:** The number of villages covered in 1980-81 is 874.

**श्रीमती कृष्णा साहू :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहती हूँ कि छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्तर्गत बिहार में प्रोबलम विलिजज के लिये कितनी राशि आवंटित की गई है जिससे पेय जल की समस्या दूर की जा सके ?

**SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:** The total allocations for Bihar in the sixth plan for the minimum needs programme is Rs. 75 crores.

#### Allocation for Development Projects in Sunderbans Area

\* 102. **SHRI SANAT KUMAR MAJ DAL:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated for the various development projects in the Sunderbans Area the most backward one in West Bengal during the current year and the nature of the projects covered;

(b) the progress made in the execution of the Sunderbans Agriculture Development Project; and

(c) the amount received from the International Bank for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for certain projects like putting up of marketing centres and how it has been or is proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) A total allocation of Rs. 6.26 crores has been made for the current year (1981-82) by the Government of West Bengal. The amount will be spent on promotion of agriculture, horticulture, fisheries. Social forestry, adult education, loans to small scale industries and such other development activities both under the normal development programmes of the Sunderban Development Board and for the implementation of the Sunderban Development Project assisted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

(b) The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) assisted Sunderban Development Project is a five year State Government project which became operational in current financial year. The State Government has provided a sum of Rs. 4.21 crores for 1981-82. The first progress report's due in September, 1981.

(c) Since no reimbursement claim against expenditure incurred has been sent by the Government of West Bengal, no amount has been received from the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

#### Shortage of Essential Commodities

\*103. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the shortage created by the traders in the market of all essential commodities his Ministry

has taken the steps to make them available at ration shops or in Super Bazar;

(b) if so, whether the shortage is on the increase every day;

(c) if so, what steps Ministry has initiated to provide all essential commodities in the market and fair price shops; and

(d) whether several measures have also been initiated to compel the hoarders to bring them open in the market?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

The availability of essential commodities, in general, is satisfactory except localised shortages of a temporary nature in respect of a few commodities. As and when reports of shortage are received, appropriate remedial measures are taken by the concerned Departments and agencies. The main thrust of the Government policy is to increase the production of essential commodities and improve their movement and distribution. The domestic production of the commodities in short supply is being supplemented by imports. The public distribution system is being expanded. The State Governments have been advised to see that the commodities meant for sale through the public distribution system are properly distributed. The State Governments are vigorously implementing the Essential Commodities Act, the Prevention of Black-Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act and other relevant measures.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: We are all aware that shortage of essential commodities in this country is always created by the trading community because they are interested in black-marketing and profit making.