

(i) age, (ii) gale or storm (iii) destroyed in forest fires (iv) commercial felling

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN) (a) and (b): Felling for commercial purpose is not the primary consideration of forest management. Trees are harvested on principles of scientific management and in accordance with Working Plans and Schemes prepared for the purpose.

The field staff of the State Forest Departments are meant primarily for ensuring that felling are done accordingly and for keeping vigilance against deviations.

(c) No census of trees lost through age or natural calamities such as gale or storm or forest fires etc. is compiled by the State Forest Departments. However, the total quantity of wood harvested from government forests during 1979-80 and 1980-81 was 21.1 and 21.98 million cubic metres respectively.

Dry Land Farming

*408. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to project Director of ICAR of Indian Coordinated Research Project for Dry Land Agriculture has stated that if every farmer in India owning dry land could be persuaded or enabled to adopt the full package of dry land farming technology evolved by the Scientists the production of foodgrains from lands to this category can jump from a mere 16 million tonnes as in 1981 to a spectacular 210 million tonnes a year;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to ask the farmers to adopt this technique; and

(c) if so, to what extent Government have been able to persuade farmers in this regard and to what extent the results will be achieved during 1982 ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. It is not the Project Director but the Project Coordinator, Dryland Agriculture Research Project of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research who stated on 4-2-1982 to a press party that foodgrain production for dry lands could increase from 60 mt. to 150 mt. if the package of improved dryland technology already available is adopted.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The Government is making all possible efforts to extend the improved dryland technology to the farmers through Central and State Extension Departments. However, precise information on the extent of adoption and its impact on foodgrain production is not readily available.

Development of Irrigation Potential from Narmada River

*409. SHRI B. R. NAHATA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) how much plan outlay has been provided in Sixth Five Year Plan for development of irrigation potential from Narmada River; and

(b) how much expenditure has been incurred by Government of Madhya Pradesh on development of Irrigation projects on Narmada River and how much potential has been achieved out of it ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY) :

(a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to Narmada Development schemes in Madhya Pradesh. An outlay of Rs. 163.54 crores has been provided by the Government of Madhya Pradesh in the Sixth Five Year Plan for on-going major Irrigation Projects in the Narmada Basin. In addition, a lump-sum outlay of Rs. 63 crores has been provided for five new major schemes envisaging irrigation from Narmada Waters and onescheme outside the Narmada Basin.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 203.60 crores is likely to be incurred upto end of March 1982 on the on-going major irrigation schemes in the Narmada basin. In addition, an expenditure of about Rs. 5 crores has been incurred on pre-construction works of Narmada Sagar Project as reported by the State Government. The irrigation potential anticipated to be created upto end of June, 1982 is 3.2 lakh hectares.

Upliftment of Villages

*410. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the progress made in linking of villages with

“pucca” metal roads with the towns and “mandis” to help farmers to take their produce speedily and easily besides providing quicker means of transport to rush help and assistance in times of need;

(b) by what time all the villages in the country are expected to be electrified so as to help curb lawlessness in the wake of darkness prevailing in villages particularly those of Harijans ; and

(c) other steps taken to develop the backward and underdeveloped villages ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM) : (a) A statement indicating the State-wise coverage of villages by all-weather roads as on 31st March, 1981, under the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) in the State Sector is attached.

(b) According to the prospective plans drawn up by the States, all the villages are expected to be electrified by 1994-95, subject to availability of resources.

(c) Some of the major programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development are :

(a) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP),

(b) National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), (c) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and (d) Desert Development Programme (DDP).