

as a result of very heavy rainfall in West Bengal. During the floods, Damodar Valley reservoirs have helped in mitigating the flood damage by withholding waters behind the dams.

To mitigate the damage due to flood in the Valley, the Government of India in agreement with the Government of Bihar and West Bengal had constituted the Damodar Valley Corporation by an Act of Parliament in 1948. Under the aegis of the authority, four multi-purpose storage reservoirs viz, Maithon, Panchet, Tillaya and Konar have been constructed in the Valley. These dams have afforded reasonable flood protection for the areas in West Bengal. West Bengal Government have also contemplated a scheme of drainage improvement in the lower Damodar areas since 1972. The first stage of the scheme is almost complete and the phase II and III of the scheme are not finalised so far.

Increase in Allotment of Funds to Orissa for Minor Irrigation

*115. SHRI RASA BEHARI BEHERA : Will the Minister OF IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to increase allotment of funds to Orissa for minor irrigation in view of a number of sanctioned projects pending execution; and

(b) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) : Irrigation is a State subject and irrigation projects are implemented by the State Governments out of their overall development plans. Central assistance to the States is provided in the form of block loans and block grants and is not tied to any sector or projects. It is for the Government of Orissa to provide increased allocation for minor irrigation, taking into consideration the availability of resources and the need of a particular sector.

'Tungro' Viral Disease of Rice in Tamil Nadu

*116. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item in 'Hindu' dated 4 July, 1984 that 'Tungro' a serious viral disease of rice, has been noticed in several hectares and almost all varieties to rice grown in Chingleput and North Arcot districts of Tamil Nadu, have been affected in that region; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the report, if any, submitted by Tamil Nadu Government to the Centre in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All varieties of paddy except I.R. 50 have been affected by the Tungro disease in Madurai, North Arcot, South Arcot and Chinglepet, in about 5,000 hectares, as reported by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The State Government have also reported that the disease is now under control.

Master Plan to Arrest Floods in Brahmaputra

*117. SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the floods in the Brahmaputra basin cause tremendous loss of life and property during the monsoon season every year;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is no regularity in flood cycle and during the last two decades floods had been heavier resulting in huge erosion of soil, loss of crops, river banks damage, ecological imbalance, submerging of vast areas, and several other problems;