

Rs. 100.88 lakhs for the year 1974-75 to 1976-77; and

(d) whether any decision has been taken by Government on this matter?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE):** (a) Yes sir.

(b) 48 per cent.

(c) Yes sir.

(d) Not yet.

**Effect of Power Shortage on Farm Operation and Supply of Diesel to Farmers**

\*382. **SHRI D. D. DESAI:**

**SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR:**

Will the Minister of **AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION** be pleased to state:

(a) whether farm operations have been affected in the country owing to power shortage;

(b) if so, whether farmers had made any complaints to this effect recently; and

(c) if so, whether any steps have been taken by his Ministry to supply adequate supply of diesel to assist where farm operations were threatened by shortage of power?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN):** (a) Timely availability of irrigation and other farm operations have been affected to some extent in some parts of the country owing to power shortage.

(b) Complaints of farmers from some areas in a few States were

received about the power shortage affecting irrigation of crops.

(c) Yes, Sir. Apart from insisting on the States to provide electric power for irrigation pumping on a priority basis by imposing restrictions on the use of power consumption in the non-agricultural sector, number of steps were also taken to improve the supply of diesel oil for irrigation pumping and other farm operations. These include:

(i) making realistic assessment of the requirement of diesel oil and issuing on this basis diesel allocation cards to the consumers in the agriculture sector so that supplies to such consumers could be ensured on priority,

(ii) taking measures for economising in the consumption of high speed diesel oil in transport sector.

(iii) imposing a ban on the use of diesel oil for power generation for festive purposes under the essential commodities act.

**Fish Production**

\*383. **SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR:** Will the Minister of **AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made to increase fish output in the country;

(b) whether during the next year more districts are proposed to be included in the Fish Farmers' Development Schemes; and

(c) if so, the State-wise and district-wise breakup of the proposals under Fish Farmer's Development Agencies?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE):** (a) In order to increase fish output, several Developmental Schemes have been taken up.