

5. Chief Executive Councillor Delhi Metropolitan Council	Member
6. Addl. Member (Works), Railway Board	Member
7. Director General (Roads), and Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Shipping and Transport	Member
8. Representative of Planning Commission	Member
9. Vice Chairman, Delhi Development Authority	Member
10. Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs	Member
11. Joint Secretary, (Housing) Ministry of Works and Housing	Member Secretary.

Functions of the High Powered Board

To consider matters relating to planning of the Region, provision of funds, addition to the areas comprised in the Region and other connected matters

Distribution of Land and other Facilities provided in Gujarat

*89 SHRI ARVIND M PATEL
SHRI VEKARIA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state

(a) the total area of agricultural land distributed to landless farmers in Gujarat State during the last year;

(b) whether any other facilities, i.e., loans for purchasing cattles, setting up pump sets or purchasing seeds and fertilizers etc were also provided to landless farmers of that State, and

(c) if so, the total amount loaned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P SHINDE) (a) to (c) Between June, 1975 and June, 1976, 4,173 acres of surplus land were distributed among landless agricultural workers and other eligible persons. The implementation of land ceiling measures in Gujarat had been held up on account of an *ad interim* injunction granted by the High Court against it. This was vacated in March this year and all steps for the implementation of the

law were taken shortly thereafter. This work is still going on. Most of the surplus land distributed during the period mentioned in this statement had been mopped up through was given for distribution to the law that was operative before its revision in the light of the national guidelines. A small assistance of Rs 87,000 was given for distribution to the assignees of surplus land under the Central sector Scheme for purpose.

Drought Conditions in Kerala

*90 SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Central Government have made any evaluation for the scarcity conditions in Kerala State; and

(b) if so, the relief and other measures worked out by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE). (a) The Central Government has not made any evaluation of the scarcity conditions in Kerala State. According to the available information the monsoon was delayed in the State and this affected crops during the current season. Although there was

improvement in the rainfall position later in the season yet the overall rainfall in the State continues to be deficient.

(b) Consequent upon the acceptance of the recommendations of the Sixth Finance Commission, the relief measures are now required to be financed by the State Government from their own resources with the help of 'margin' money allowed to them by the Commission and suitable adjustment of their Plan outlays. Central assistance is provided where necessary by way of Advance Plan Assistance only. State Government have just intimated that they will require financial assistance from the Centre for relief of distress among farmers and Agricultural workers. Their detailed proposal is awaited.

Construction of Multi-purpose Dam on River Subansiri in Assam

*91. SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project and engineering reports for construction of multi-purpose dam on the river Subansiri and Dehang have been prepared; and

(b) if so, when the project will be taken up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH): (a) and (b). The Hon'ble Member is probably having in mind Dehang the largest tributary of Brahmaputra. Detailed investigations for multi-purpose projects on Subansiri and Dehang have been taken up by the Assam Government and the dam site and reservoir area surveys, foundation explorations and geological mapping are in progress. After these are completed, project and engineering reports will be prepared. Other possible sites

or storage reservoirs and detention dams in the Brahmaputra basin have also been identified, including the one on Dehang, but investigations so far been taken up on Subansiri and Dehang.

After the project reports are prepared and approved their inclusion in the State plan could be considered.

School Drop-outs

*98. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a high percentage of school drop-outs among children in the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) and (b). No recent study has been made of the drop-out rate at the school stage. However, Government are feeling concerned over the high rate of wastage and stagnation.

(c) The Government is fully aware of this situation. For checking the educational wastage which includes drop-outs the following measures have been taken:

(i) Ancillary services in the schools for children studying in primary schools.

(ii) Orientation programmes for the teachers and their professional organisations for checking the rate of educational wastage particularly the drop-outs.

(iii) Introduction of Non-formal Education Programmes for the drop-outs to enable them to complete