

The scheme at (i) above provides for loan assistance to the extent of 80 per cent of the cost of house subject to a maximum of Rs. 14,500 to persons whose income does not exceed Rs. 7,200 per annum. The Middle Income Group Housing Scheme mentioned at (ii) above provides for the grant of loans to individual house builders who are in the income range of Rs. 7,201 to Rs. 16,000 per annum and the loan assistance admissible is limited to 80 per cent of the cost of a house subject to a maximum of Rs. 27,500.

Besides, the Low Income Group Housing Scheme and the Middle Income Group Housing Scheme, there is Village Housing Projects Scheme which provides for grant of loans to the individuals, including Government employees for construction and improvement of houses in villages. The amount of loan is restricted to 80 per cent of the cost of construction subject to a maximum of Rs. 5,000 per house. The total cost of a house should not exceed Rs. 8,000.

Utilisation of a Bulk of the Periyar Dam water in Tamil Nadu

*207. SHRI P. THIAGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the totally inadequate supply of water in Madura and Ramnad Districts of Tamil Nadu hampering agricultural production;

(b) if so, whether Government have charged the possibilities of diverting sufficient volume of water from Periyar dam to Madura and Ramnad districts through Vaigai channel;

(c) whether Government propose to undertake meaningful utilisation of a bulk of the Periyar Waters which otherwise flow into the sea unused; and

(d) if so, the salient features of the plan thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Some of the taluks in Madurai and Ramnad districts are drought-prone, but the area being irrigated in Madurai and Ramnad districts aggregate to 43 per cent and 41 per cent respectively of the gross cropped area. Similar percentage for the Tamil Nadu State is 48 per cent and for the country as a whole is about 24 per cent.

(b) to (d). The Periyar-Vaigai scheme of water supplies has been drawing almost the entire flows available at Periyar Dam and now there is no further scope for augmenting the supplies through this system. It has been reported that the registered ayacut under this scheme has been fully irrigated in the past except last year (1976-77), which happened to be a severe drought year. However, the Tamil Nadu Government have taken up modernisation of the irrigation system under Periyar-Vaigai which envisages lining of the channels, filling of the tanks and provision of control structures so as to supply water to 25 acre blocks. After the modernisation, increased supplies for irrigation of additional 25,000 hectares are expected to be available. Tamil Nadu Government has also proposals to take up more small irrigation schemes in these two districts in the Fifth Plan.

Lift Irrigation Schemes in H.P.

*212. SHRI BALAK RAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Scheme/Project/Agency providing Central assistance for the formulation and execution of lift irrigation schemes for the benefit of small farmers of the snowbound hilly areas of the country, particularly Simla District of Himachal Pradesh, which suffer heavily every year in the absence of assured irrigation facilities;