

Right Canal has been taken up in different reaches upto 53 Km. and is in various stages of execution.

(b) and (c). The latest estimated cost of the project is Rs. 73.60 crores. The expenditure incurred on the project upto the end of May, 1977, is about Rs. 12.62 crores.

Review of Development Grant to Colleges ..

*321. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued instructions to U.G.C. for reviewing development grant to colleges in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the amount earmarked for this purpose during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) At the instance of Government, the University Grants Commission has initiated the process for reviewing the norms for giving grants to colleges. A meeting of the Commission's Standing Committee on development of colleges has been convened on July 7, 1977 to consider the matter.

(b) A tentative allocation of Rs. 685 lakhs has been made by the University Grants Commission for the development of colleges during 1977-78, in its plan budget.

Education of Farmers in Scientific Method of Farming

*322. SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities available for education of farmers in scientific methods of farming;

(b) the results of the review, if any, carried out regarding the impact of such methods of education; and

(c) the extent to which agricultural graduates and under-graduates have been associated with such education?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Facilities for education of farmers in scientific methods of farming are being provided under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Farmers Training and Education being run by the Government of India. Under this, short term training is being imparted to the farmers including farm women through 126 Farmers Training Centres established in the various States. The farmers are also being provided training facilities through the Exchange Programme.

In addition, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has, during the year 1976-77 established 18 Krishi Vigyan Kendras for skill-oriented training of the farmers in latest agricultural technology.

(b) Five Evaluation Studies have been conducted on impact of Farmers Training and Education Programme. These studies reveal that the training has proved beneficial to the farmers in terms of increased knowledge and adoption of scientific methods of farming. Similarly two evaluation studies on Farmers Exchange Programme within the country have also been made which revealed that the trained farmers have acquired practical knowledge in scientific methods of farming.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra is a new Scheme and is still in the process of being established. No review has accordingly been carried out in this regard.