Schemes hitherto undertaken to deal with this problem.

सिंचाई योजनाएं

*984. श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री :
श्री यशवन्त सिंह कुशवाह :
श्री शिव कुमार शास्त्री :
श्री प्रात्म दास :
श्री रघुवीर सिंह शास्त्री :

क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने राज्य सरकारों को यह निदेश दिया है कि वे अपने वर्तमान आय-व्ययकों में सिंचाई को प्राथमिकता दें ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि राज्य सरकारों ने सिंचाई के लिये बहुत थोड़ी राशि नियत की है ,

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या खाद्य समस्या हल करने पर इसका प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ेगा ,

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने सिंचाई के लिये पर्याप्त व्यवस्था की है , और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री (डा० कु० ल० राव) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) से (ङ) जिस गति से कार्य चल रहे हैं उसको देखते हुए नियत राशियां जरूरत से कम हैं । व्यय की राशियों में उचित परिवर्तन करके सिंचाई के लिए वर्तमान आवण्टनों को कितना बढ़ाया जा सकता है, इसके बारे में विचार-विमर्श हो रहा है ।

Drop in Rural Business of L.I.C.

*985. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the rural business of the Life Insurance Corporation of India has shown a significant drop between 1963 and 1966;

(b) if so, what are the relevant figures, and

(c) whether steps have been taken towards decentralising servicing work to the branch level and using regional languages in order to reach the countryside effectively?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): (a) and (b) No, Sir The rural business of the L I C during the financial year 1 1-1962 to 31-3-1963 was Rs 233 5 crores equivalent to an annual figure of Rs 186 8 crores Since the new business during the financial year 1965-66 was Rs 220 6 crores, there was an increase during the period between 1963 and 1966

(c) Yes, Sir

इसराईल-अरब संघर्ष के बारे में भारत के दृष्टिकोण के कारण अनाज तथा वित्तीय सहायता पर प्रभाव

*986 श्री क० मि० मधुकर :
श्री रामावतार शास्त्री :
श्री कामेश्वर सिंह :

क्या वित्त मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या अरब-इसराइली संघर्ष के दौरान सरकार द्वारा अपनाई गई नीति के कारण भारत को अमरीका द्वारा दी जाने वाली अनाज की मात्रा तथा वित्तीय सहायता में कोई कमी की जाने वाली है जिसका अमरीका के सीनेटर, मि० विलियम प्रो० काउगर ने हाल के अपने वक्तव्य में आभास दिया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार का विचार वैकल्पिक उपाय के रूप में पूर्वी यूरोप तथा समाजवादी देशों से वित्तीय सहायता लेने का है ?

उप-प्रधान मंत्री तथा वित्त मंत्री (श्री मोरारजी देसाई): (क) जी नहीं। संयुक्त राज्य अमरिका की सरकार ने ऐसा कोई संकेत नहीं किया है।

(ख) यह सवाल पैदा ही नहीं होता।

Release of Mill Cloth in Cut Pieces

*987. **Shri M. S. Murti:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that large quantities of mill cloth are being released in the form of fents or cut pieces to escape excise duties and they are thus competing with handloom cloth,

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to levy excise duties on fents of mill-made cloth to avoid such competition with handloom cloth, and

(c) if not whether Government propose to issue any direction to the State Governments to levy sales tax on the fents of mill made cloth to help handloom industry?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K C. Pant): (a) No Sir

(b) Does not arise Fents of cotton fabrics are already subject to Central Excise duty as well as additional excise duty (in lieu of sales tax), though at concessional rates

(c) The question does not arise.

Farakka Barrage

*988. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent statement by the Chairman, Calcutta Port Commissioners to the effect that dredging can no longer check the deterioration in the river Hooghly's draft and that unless normal supply to head-water was made available throughout the year, the river would soon cease to be navigable by sea-going vessels, and

(b) if so, whether there is any plan for expediting completion of the Farakka Barrage?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The progress on the Farakka Barrage Project is constantly under review and all steps are being taken for the completion of the Farakka Barrage Project as early as possible

Sulphur of Fertilizer Plants

*989. **Shri D. N. Patodia:** Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state

(a) whether the supply position of sulphur for fertilizer plants is encouraging,

(b) whether non-availability or reduced availability of nitrogen will affect the factories at Namrup, Visakhapatnam and Alwaye, and

(c) whether the question of utilization of pyrites as an alternative to sulphur is being considered by Government?

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta) (a) The supply position of sulphur for fertilizer factories appears to be improving

(b) It is presumed that the reference is to sulphur The non-availability or reduced availability of sulphur will affect the production at Namrup, Visakhapatnam and Alwaye.

(c) Yes, Sir.