

Grant for development of Calcutta

*240. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS:
Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for granting financial assistance for the development of Calcutta in its tri-centenary year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN):
(a) No formal proposal in this regard has been submitted by Government of West Bengal to Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

Receipt of payments from Government/ Non-Government sources by CARE for its various activities within India

@1934. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:
Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the American Agency, Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) is allowed to receive funds from any Government or non-Government sources within India in respect of the said Agency's activities in India;

(b) whether the said Agency is required to submit accounts to the Central or State Governments in respect of such receipts from sources within India; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SMT. USHA SINHA): (a) CARE in India is governed by the Indo-CARE Agreement signed with Government of India on 6 March, 1950. Under the agreement, voluntary gifts of food commodities, received by CARE from individuals and organisations outside India,

are sent to ten States in India. The recipient State Government are making payments to CARE for meeting the Administrative cost of CARE operations. In addition, funds are generated by the sale of CARE gift food commodities through the National Dairy Development Board which are utilised for various maternal and child health projects. Apart from this, no other payment is received by CARE from any Government or non-Government sources.

(b) and (c) At the end of each financial year CARE submits to the Government of India a Written Statement called Final Accounts duly audited by a Chartered Accountant. The Final Accounts give details of various expenditure incurred by CARE during the year.

Scrutiny of Accounts of CARE

@@1935. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:
Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the accounts of the American Agency, the Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) in respect of its receipts from the Central/State Governments in India, and/or other Indian sources, are scrutinised or required to be scrutinised, by any authority;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to scrutinise the said Agency's accounts particularly after the said Agency's Executive Director was sentenced to imprisonment after disclosure of financial irregularities; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SMT. USHA SINHA): (a) At the end of each financial year, CARE submits to the Government of India a Written Statement of Final Accounts duly certified by a Chartered Accountant. The Final Accounts give details of various expenditure incurred by

CARE during the year. Which are scrutinised by the Department of Women and Child Development.

(b) According to the available information, the instance of imprisonment of Executive Director of CARE due to financial irregularities occurred in U.S.A. over 10 years ago for which action had been initiated by the CARE's New York Office itself. These irregularities had nothing to do with CARE's activities in India. Therefore, no need for special scrutiny of CARE's accounts has been considered necessary.

(c) In view of (b) above, the question does not arise.

Refund of earnest money by Ramagundam Units of FCI

1936. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the practice of the Fertilizer Corporation of India to demand deposit of earnest money from the tenderers including small scale industrial units;

(b) whether it is Government's policy to exempt small scale industrial units from depositing earnest money while tendering for works in such organisations;

(c) if so, the amount of earnest money received by the Ramagundam unit of FCI and not refunded so far to tenders together with the names of the firms involved so; and

(d) the action taken to refund the deposit at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) No Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) is taken by the Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) from small scale industries registered with National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), except at the Corporation's Talcher Unit where EMD was being collected from all tenders including small scale undertakings against

press tenders. However, instructions have been issued by FCI to their Talcher unit on 21-8-1990 that EMD should not be demanded from small scale industries.

(b) Yes, Sir. There are instructions from the Government to exempt small scale industrial units registered with the public enterprises concerned or with the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., from depositing earnest money.

(c) No EMD is pending for refund to any small scale industrial unit by Ramagundam unit of FCI.

(d) In view of the position stated in part (c) above, no action is required to be taken to refund the deposit.

Conversion of agricultural land for housing purpose

1937. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large tracts of fertile lands have been converted into commercial projects for housing purpose;

(b) whether Government are also aware that with this continuous trend fertile land would become scarce affecting thereby agricultural production adversely; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) to (c) Conversion of agricultural land into projects for housing as well as other non-agricultural uses is taking place on account of growing population and diversification of economic activity.

With a view to check this trend, Government of India have been repeatedly impressing on the States and UTs that good agricultural lands should not be diverted to non-agricultural purposes. Many States have also made provisions in their