

In so far as National Rural Employment Programme is concerned, instances were reported in the past of diversion of NREP funds for works outside the scope of the programme. The state Governments were asked to recoup the amount to NREP account, which they have agreed to do.

Recently, the main complaint regarding diversion of resources given under the programme has been that rice supplied to the State under the programme is being diverted to public distribution system and is being utilised under the State Scheme of distributing rice at Rs. 2/- per kg. On coming to notice, this was objected by the Government of India last year. Thereupon, the State Government agreed to evolve a revised procedure which would ensure the distribution of rice to NREP/RLEGP workers as per their entitlements. Complaints have again been received that even after this, the rice supplied under NREP is being utilised under the State Scheme of distributing rice at Rs. 2/- per kg. and hence the diversion of funds provided for a central scheme is continuing. We have again written about this to the State Government.

Modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant

781. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY;
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAN-
DRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Germany have offered to aid India in modernisation of the Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) if so, what are the details of the offer; and

(c) what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR):
(a) to (c) The West German Government have indicated that they

could be interested in the modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP). The matter of modalities of aid is under consideration of the Government of India.

RSP modernisation has not yet been posed formally to West German Government for financial assistance.

New policy for states prone to natural calamities

782. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAN-
DRAKANT BHANDARE;
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD;
SHRI D. B. CHANDRE
GOWDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed a new policy to help the States perennially struck by natural calamities like drought and floods;

(b) if so, what are the broad features thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken to enforce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) No general revision of policy for financing the States affected by natural calamities has been framed.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Uniformity in the enforcement of land reform measures

783. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD;
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the fact that no uniformity has so far been followed in the different States and Union Territories in the matter of enforcing the land reform measures; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to bring about some uniformity in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) and (b) Land is a State subject. The responsibility for formulating land reforms laws and their enforcement therefore rests with the State Govts. [UTs. The Central Govt. formulates national guidelines on land reforms measures in consultation with States within the framework of national policies from time to time. Some variations in land reforms laws of different State Govts. are not unlikely. The quality and effectiveness of implementation of land reforms measures may also vary from State to State due to several factors. Uniformity in the matter is neither possible nor within the competence of Union Govt. to achieve.

The Central Govt. however periodically reviews the progress of implementation of land reforms measures and recommends various steps for their effective implementation. The last such national review was held in Nov. 1986 in the Revenue Ministers Conference. The consensus arrived at in the Conference has been circulated to the State Govts. The progress of Land Reforms measures falling within the 20 point programme is separately monitored and States are advised steps necessary for improving their performance.

Strategy to achieve rabi crop target

**784. SHRI RAM NARESH
KUSHAWAHA;
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA;**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) by what percentage according to the assessment, if any, is the anticipated shortfall in the Kharif crop (State-wise) as against the target during the current year due to failure of monsoon, drought and floods in

various parts of the country and how it is likely to affect the overall food-grains target; and

(b) what strategy has been formulated by Government to remove the uncertainties, keeping in view the current situation, and to achieve the Rabi crop target during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Due to widespread drought conditions prevailing in many States and floods in some States in the Eastern region during the Kharif season, production of various crops in 1987-88 is likely to be affected. Firm estimates of Kharif production for 1987-88 are not yet due from the States. It is, therefore, too early to quantify the anticipated production of Kharif crops for the year 1987-88.

(b) In order to make up the shortfall sustained during the Kharif season, a vigorous Rabi Production strategy is being implemented. The targets of production of various crops have been enhanced and appropriate arrangements for input supply like seeds and fertilisers are being tied up with the States.

Shelter for economically weaker section

**785. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR
BANSAL;
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY;**

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set any specific targets regarding the provision of shelters with basic minimum facilities for the economically weaker sections of the society;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the total number of families likely to be provided with shelters during the current year?