

Increasing trend of cash crop production in Kerala

1270. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many States like Kerala the land used for food grain production is gradually being converted for cash crop production;

(b) if so, the extent to which it is likely to affect Government's policy for self-sufficiency in foodgrains;

(c) whether it is a fact that the low prices available for rice other foodgrains are one of the factors motivating the farmers in this switch over; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to arrest this trend in order to maintain our self-sufficiency in foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir. There have been some increases in area under cash crops in some States, including Kerala alongwith declines in area under foodgrains.

(b) Total area under foodgrains in the country has been showing an increasing trend over years. The diversion of area to cash crops in some of the States does not affect the Government's policy for self-sufficiency in foodgrains. Rather, it supports the view of the Government for diversification of crop production to meet the demand for various commodities, including those for cash crops and exports.

(c) No, Sir. The diversion to cultivation of cash crops is primarily due to favourable agro-climatic conditions, high yield levels and returns obtaining in such States.

(d) While fixing the support/procurement prices of various agricultural commodities, the Government ensures that not only these prices are remunerative to the producers, but also a certain parity is maintained among the profitability of competing crops, so that desired targets of production for various commodities are achieved.

Iron ore reserves

1271. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated reserves of iron ore in India and the number of years it is likely to last depending upon the present level of extraction; and

(b) whether the export of iron ore to Japan and other countries is likely to continue at the present level in spite of the commissioning of new steel plants at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Hospet in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Estimated reserves of iron ore in India are placed at 17,574 million tonnes of which 11,470 million tonnes are haematite ore and 6,104 million tonnes are magnetite ore.

The life of different grades of iron ore is indicated in the table below:

Sl.No.	Grade	Life of the reserve
1.	High grade with above 65 percent	32 years
2.	Medium grade ore with 62-65 percent	182 years
3.	Low grade ore with below 62 Percent	98 years
4.	Useable grade magnetite	29 years

NOTE: The life indicated is from the years 1994-95 as the reference year.

(b) Availability of ore at Bailadila would be sufficient to meet export requirements as well as requirements of the new steel plant at Visakhapatnam. It has not been possible for Government to take an investment decision for setting up a steel plant in the Hospet area due to overall constraints of resources.

The level of iron ore exports will depend on the rail movement capacity and international market conditions.

Sale of Land to Housing Societies by the DDA

1272. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of housing societies which sought land from the DDA and how many of them have been allotted land during the year 1986;

(b) whether it is a fact that some societies have protested against higher prices demanded by the DDA for land in Palam Village; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the representations submitted by the Housing Societies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The names of 1217 cooperative group housing societies registered in 1983 have been sponsored by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Delhi Administration for allotment of land. None of these societies have been allotted land during 1986.

(b) and (c) Till the allotment is made, there is no question of demanding the higher prices. The provisional rate fixed is Rs. 474/-per sq. mtr. There have been some representations against this provisional fixation of rate. DDA is presently considering the fixation of the final rates.

Underground Sub-Ways in Delhi

1273. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals which are under Government's consideration for construction of underground sub-ways for pedestrians in Delhi together with their locations; and

(b) how many such sub-ways have since been declared open together with their location and what is the total amount spent on each?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to construct 20 pedestrian sub-ways in the NDMC area. Their locations are indicated in the enclosed statement. (See below). Of these, one at Baba Kharag Singh Marg has been declared open since 1-1-87. The total cost incurred on this sub-way is about Rs. 35 lakhs.

In the MCD area one sub-way on Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, opposite Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narain Hospital has already been constructed at a cost of Rs. 3.65 lakhs and is open to the public.

Statement

List of proposed pedestrian subways in NDMC area

1. Baba Kharag Singh Marg	(Connecting Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital with Nurses Hostel)
2. Ashoka Road	(Opposite Gurudwara Bangla Sahib)
3. Aurobindo Marg	(INA Market)
4. Mandir Marg	(Opp. Laxmi Narain Temple)
5. Church Road	(Central Sectt.)