

Lease system

665. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARDWAJ; Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to convert urban land leases into ownership rights in Delhi;

(b) if so, what decision has been taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative by when a decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) The decision to abolish or modify lease hold system of residential properties in Delhi will have to be taken keeping in view the financial and other implications and the likely repercussions. It is, therefore, not possible at this stage to indicate when a final decision is likely to be taken.

Steps to halt march of desert

666. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARDWAJ;
DR. H. P. SHARMA;
SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Centrally sponsored desert development project, aimed mainly at halting the march of the desert in Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti districts in Himachal Pradesh has lately been launched;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes to be carried out under the project;

(c) the provision of funds allocated for the project during the current year; and

(d) whether any similar project aimed at containing the march of the desert in Rajasthan is also under

contemplation, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (d) The Desert Development Programme was started in 1977-78 in selected areas of the five States of Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. This included the Spiti region of Lahaul-Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh and from 1982-83 the programme was extended to Pooch Block of Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh. The programme now covers 131 Blocks in 21 districts of 5 States, which include 84 blocks in the hot arid areas of Rajasthan and 2 Blocks of Spiti and Pooch in the cold arid areas of Himachal Pradesh.

The programme includes scheme for arresting desertification through soil conservation, afforestation, sand dune stabilisation and shelter-belt plantation and for development of the productivity of the area through water conservation, minor irrigation, ground water development, dryland agriculture and horticulture, livestock, pasture and fodder development etc.

During the Sixth Plan the Programme allocation was shared equally by the Centre and States and the same was continued in 1985-86 with a total allocation of Rs. 16 crore, of which the total allocation for selected blocks of Himachal Pradesh is Rs. 1 crore. Recently, however, the National Development Council has approved the Seventh Five Year Plan which includes a revision of the financing pattern for the Desert Development Programme to make it 100 per cent centrally funded.