

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) (a) to (d) The working group set up in connection with the 7th Plan made a recommendation for creating separate Tripartite Arbitration Machinery, both at the Centre and at the State-level for the settlement of disputes. No final decision has been taken by the Government in this regard.

Grants to State Governments for Persons allotted surplus land

*260. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY;

SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of grants given to various State Governments for landless

labourers and harijans who were allotted surplus land arising out of various ceiling legislations during the last three years; and

(b) the manner in which grants were utilised by the State Governments and the number of beneficiaries State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) Various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been given Rs. 440.79 lakhs as grants by Government of India during the last three years which are detailed below :—

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

State/U.T.	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	Total for 1981-82 to 1983-84
1. Andhra Pradesh	..	..	..	..
2. Bihar	33.75	..	41.70	75.45
3. Karnataka	..	..	..	..
4. Kerala	6.93	11.60	13.41	31.94
5. Maharashtra	17.08	50.00	68.53	135.61
6. Orissa	17.33	11.34	15.00	43.67
7. Tripura	0.23	0.24	0.24	0.71
8. Uttar Pradesh	38.26	56.83	57.00	152.09
9. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	..	..	0.80	0.80
10. Pondicherry	..	0.20	..	0.20
11. Gujarat	..	..	..	..
12. Manipur	..	..	0.32	0.32
TOTAL:	113.58	130.21	197.00	440.79

Information regarding the number of beneficiaries who have been provided assistance under the scheme is maintained by the concerned State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations.

The funds being provided to the State Governments are being made available under a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme of providing timely supply of adequate inputs and investment support where necessary and further development of land so that the allottees may be able to take to efficient cultivation of the assigned land. The funds under the scheme are being shared by the Central and the State Governments on 50:50 basis.

The rate of assistance upto 31st March, 1984 was Rs. 1000 per hectare which has since been increased to Rs. 2500/- per hectare with effect from 1.4.1984.

Testing of Dangerous pesticides by multinationals on Indian volunteers

†1329. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an Editorial captioned 'Human Guinea Pigs' which appeared in the Statesman dated February 5, 1985 wherein it has been stated that in the mid-seventies a multinational company tested a pesticide's toxicity on Indian Volunteers;

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

(c) if so, whether Government are keeping a watch over the activities of multinationals in order to prevent recurrence of such incidents

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the name of the Company has not been mentioned in the Editorial, it is not possible to give any details. However, in 1979, a journal entitled "Eco-Toxicology and Environmental Safety" had reported the results of some studies conducted by a Company. The paper revealed the effect of a single direct exposure to the aerially sprayed Monocrotophos and of repeated exposures once daily for Monocrotophos and of repeated exposures once daily for 3 consecutive days. No toxic pesticide induced symptoms were observed in the workers upto 15 days after application of the pesticide. Later on, some other papers/journals also referred to these experiments.

(c) From the view point of safety to human beings, field evaluation of pesticides is undertaken as per guidelines evolved by the Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968. These studies necessitate health monitoring of workers to ensure various safety parameters during normal agricultural operations. These health monitoring studies during the application of pesticides on crops are not similar to therapeutic trials with drugs in human beings where the experimental drug is given to the volunteers/patients. The health monitoring study in the case of pesticides during field application and crops is essential as this is the only study where the data on health effects can be collected as all other studies are experimental laboratory studies unlike in case of drugs. These recommendations of the Registration Committee are in consonance with the recommendations given by the Scientific Committee on Pesticides of the International Association of Occupational Health in its 5th International Workshop held in 1979. Direct spraying of pesticides on human beings and animals is not allowed. Even otherwise, the studies in human volunteers require the clearance of the Medical Ethics Committee.

†Previously unstarred Question 296 transferred from the 18th March, 1985.