

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF): (a) The Delhi Development Authority has reported that construction of 23,719 dwelling units has been taken up during the current financial year.

(b) and (c) The DDA has reported that all these dwelling units are at various stages of construction, that their completion is expected next year and that the allotment of these units <sup>WM</sup> be considered after their completion.

#### **Shortfall in oilseeds production**

1296. SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH:

SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH;

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to massive setback in oilseeds production during the year 1982-83, the gap between the demand and supply has widened considerably;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the shortfall in the anticipated domestic production of oilseeds, reasons for the production-performance far below the potential, and the extent to which edible oil is estimated to be imported to meet the demand; and

(c) the impact on the prices of edible oils as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHD KHAN): (a) and (b) Due to drought and other unfavourable weather conditions prevailing in some of the States during 1982, the kharif crop of groundnut is reported to have been adversely affected mainly in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The loss in kharif groundnut production is

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expected to be partially offset by the increased production of rabi oilseeds, particularly rapeseed and mustard. However, it is too early to make any final assessment of the gap in demand and supply of oilseeds. The quantum of imports of edible oils would depend upon various considerations inducing demand for aai production of indigenous oils, price situation, foreign exchange implications etc.

(c) The Government is keeping constant vigil on prices of edible oils and taking all corrective actions to ensure their stability.

1297. [Transferred to the 14th March, 1983].

#### **Permission to charter of foreign fishing boats by the non-fishing companies**

1298. SHRI KRISHNA MOHAN BHAMIDIPATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any applications from non-fishing companies for permission to charter foreign fishing boats;

(b) what are the details of applications received in the years 1981, 1982 and 1983;

(c) what action Government have taken thereon; and

(d) the details of applications pending consideration by Government and the progress made in respect of such applications?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes. Sir. Applications have also been received from companies which are not presently engaged in fleet-sea fishing.

(b) and (c) Year-wise numbers of applications received, withdrawn by the

company under process, approved or rejected are as follow:

Year	No. of Applications				
	Received during the year	Withdrawn	Under Process	Letters of Intent or permission issued	Rejected
1981	14	1	..	6	7
1982	29	..	13	9	5
1983	3	..	3	..	..

(d) Applications for charter of foreign fishing vessels, when complete in all respects, are considered by the Government on the recommendations of the Screening Committee. As on date, 18 numbers of applications are at different stages of processing.

#### Drought Policy

1299. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved any policy to make the drought-prone areas withstand rigours of future drought, if any;

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

(c) what is the financial layout for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI HARI NATH MISHRA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have launched the Drought-Prone Areas Programme which mainly seeks to restore ecological balance and reduce the severity of drought in areas chronically affected by it. These objectives are sought to be achieved by promoting in these areas a more productive dryland agriculture, soil and moisture conservation, productive use of water resources, afforestation including pastures and farm forestry, and livestock development.

(c) The funds for the programme are contributed equally by the Central Government and the concerned State Government. The outlay for the programme in the Sixth Five Year Plan is Rs. 3.50 crores (Rs. 175 crores in the Central Plan and Rs. 175 crores in the State Plans).

#### Declaration of Port Blair as major port

1300. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased state:

(a) what are the details regarding the issue of declaring Port Blair as a major port and about constituting a Port Trust at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) what are the reasons for not taking a decision so far for declaring Port Blair as a major port and by when it is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) It is not proposed to declare Port Blair a major Port and consequently constitute a Port Trust. The current volume and nature of traffic and the size and nature of operations does not warrant the same.

However, there are proposals to reorganise the Port Blair administration to improve managerial and operational efficiency.