

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The ceiling law of West Bengal which is by and large within the framework of the National Guidelines, is being implemented. The various provisions of the Bill are under examination in consultation with the State Government.

Welfare of weaker sections of society

2369. SHRI PANDURANG DHARMAJI JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the New 20-Point Programme has envisaged the overall development of the country; and

(b) if so, what has his Ministry done for the welfare of weaker sections of society, particularly of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For the welfare of Weaker Sections of society, particularly Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Special Component Plans for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plans for the Tribal Community have been formulated as a part of the various development Programmes of the Ministry. A number of programmes likely to benefit these communities have been identified under the Sixth Plan. The outlays provided for such programmes during 1982-83 in the Central Sector total to Rs. 16.98 crores.

Component and special component plans

2370. SHRI PANDURANG DHARMAJI JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have introduced component and special component plans for the Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has made any budget provision for implementation of schemes under these plans;

(c) what are the schemes evolved for the welfare and development of Scheduled Castes; and

(d) how many Scheduled Castes families have been benefited under these schemes during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For the identified development programmes of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation benefiting the Scheduled Castes, a sum of Rs. 7.86 crores has been provided for the year 1982-83.

(c) All development programmes including in the Sixth Five Year Plan are expedited to benefit Scheduled Castes and other communities covered by the operation of the programmes.

In the Agriculture and Allied sectors, the identified programmes expected to benefit Scheduled Castes relate generally to agricultural extension and training, oilseeds, pulses, cashew and coconut development, soil and water conservation and social forestry programmes.

In the field of Agricultural Research, under the All India Coordinated Research Project on rapid improvement of agricultural technology directed at socio-economic upliftment of Scheduled Castes and other backward classes, efforts are being made to establish some ancillary vocations *viz.* tailoring, rope making, carpentry, black-smithy, leather work etc. depending upon the resources available in the area. Under this programme efforts are made to popularise simple low cost technologies for mass scale adop-