

Tree Planting Programme

2543. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently written a letter to all the State Agriculture Ministers for massive tree planting programme during the current year;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to implement the programme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (RAO BIRENDRA STNGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Plan to increase the production of Mango and L-ichi

2544. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to formulate plan to increase the production of mango and lichi during the Sixth Plan period;

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

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (MISS KAMLA KUMARI): (a) to (c) The material is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

National Policy on giving lands to landless persons

2545. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a national policy on giving land to the landless persons during the Sixth Five Year Plan period;

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

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) and (b) Allotment of land to the landless through implementation of land ceiling laws has been a major policy commitment of the Government and will continue during the Sixth Plan. The policy consists in vesting of the land surplus to the ceiling in the State and its distribution among the landless, preference being given to those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

(c) Does not arise.

Working of Gorakhpur Telephone Exchange

2546. SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDBY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether Government have sent any Technical Team or otherwise to know the various defects of Telephone Exchange at Gorakhpur in U.P., if so, what are the details of the report and what remedial measures have been taken so far to make the Exchange viable one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): No Technical Team had been sent to Gorakhpur. No major defects have been noted otherwise in the working of telephone system in the recent past.

Central Assistance for the Cultivation of new varieties of Fruits and Vegetables

2547. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of new varieties of fruits and vegetables which have been adopted for cultivation by the farmers of each State during 1980-81;

(b) the names of varieties which have been favoured by the growers to a large extent; and