

Holding of Kisan Mela,

242. SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is, a fact that Kisan Melas are held in the Country to popularise the improved methods of farming;

(b) if so, what is the number of such melas held during the last two years stating the level at which these melas were organised, such as District/Regional levels;

(c) to what extent these melas have been beneficial to the small and marginal farmers; and

(d) what improvements are proposed to be made by Government to make these melas a success on the basis of the experience gained?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (MISS KAMLA KUMARI); (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House, in due course.

Flood Control Measures in the Country

243. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA:

SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA;

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that in the report of working group on floods appointed by the Government it has been recommended that Centre and States should set up separate units for flood preparedness and flood fighting; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government and State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Report of the Working Group was considered at the Fifth Conference of the State Ministers for Irrigation and Flood Control held in November, 1980, under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Irrigation. This recommendation of the Working Group was amongst those noted and endorsed by the Conference.

By-Passing of Urban Arts Commission

244. SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH; SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press report appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 9th April, 1981, regarding increasing tendency on the part of civic and other authorities to bypass the Urban Art Commission which is supposed to clear each and every major building plan for the entire city of Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH); (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Rise in Prices of Pulses

245. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of pulses have again started showing an upward trend;

(b) if so, what were the prices of Arhar, Masoor, Moong, Urad, Chana, Rajma, and Kabli Chana in the market in March this year comparing with the prices in March last year; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to control the prices of the same?