

2. The works executed under the Rural Works Programme were to be of a durable nature. However, for works under the Food for Work Programme durability was not considered necessary. This impression was wide-spread particularly at the field levels.

3. Tanks owned by individuals were taken up for improvement under the Food for Work Programme, contrary to the Guidelines on the subject which say down in the most unequivocal terms that only the projects of community benefit can be taken up under this programme.

4. Foodgrains allocated under the Food for Work Programme were utilised for the reconstruction of individual houses washed away during the floods. Also, Sand deposits on the fields of individual farmers were removed with the help of foodgrains given under the Food for Work Programme. Both these were contrary to the existing instructions.

5. The majority of works inspected by the team did not conform to the technical specifications and prescribed standards. The link roads in district Howrah were mostly very narrow measuring 4' to 8' the top. Many of these roads looked like village pathways. In this respect guidelines issued even by the State Government have been defied.

6. According to the Guidelines on Food for Work Programme, Steering Committee headed by district Magistrates/Collectors have to be set up at the district-level. Apart from district officers concerned representatives of the Zila Parishad or district Panchayats, all local members of Parliament and State Legislatures are members of this committee. The Committee is required to plan and approve the works to be taken up under this programme and watch the progress of its implementation. But these Committees have not been constituted so far in any district. The result is that there is no supervision, technical or administrative, over the works executed by the Panchayats. For this

reason works executed are of low quality and sub-standard type.

7. Neither the district level officers nor the blocks level officers have been assigned any responsibility for the supervision and monitoring of the works executed under the Food for Works Programme.

8. In the system being followed in West Bengal at present, the entire responsibility is left to the Gram Pradhan for the execution of works as well as the distribution of foodgrains without providing him necessary administrative & technical support. Distribution is through the coupon system. A novel institution of Job workers has been created for the distribution of coupons and execution of works.

9. A number of specific suggestions have been given in the tour note of the Study Team to rectify the various defects pointed out above for consideration by the State Government.

Stopping: the Exploitation of Rural Pool

1904. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND. RAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to identify the rural poor in the country according to the profession of occupation;

(b) what steps have been taken to stop the exploitation of the rural poor in the disbursement of grants, loans and facilities for establishing small farms and building houses; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have removed the condition of security deposit for giving loans and grants for the societies of rural poor and landless labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme, which has been extended to all development blocks in the country from 2nd October, 1980, it is envisaged that at least 600

families of rural poor per block per year would be indentified and assisted with a view to enabling them to go above the poverty line. Instructions have been issued to identify the rural poor on a cluster basis on the basis of their income.

(b) While no assistance is being directly provided by the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction for establishing small farms and building houses, the following steps have been taken to stop the exploitation of the Rural poor in the disbursement of grants and loans for taking up economic activities: —

(i) subsidy is generally provided to the beneficiaries in kind and not in cash;

(ii) subsidies are generally released through banking institutions;

(iii) loans are provided to the beneficiaries as far as practicable in terms of assets and inputs, and not in cash.

(c) According to revised instruction: now in force, loans advanced to the rural poor including landless labourers need not have any security cover for amounts not exceeding Rs. 5000.

1905. [Transferred to the 18th December, 1980].

Guidelines to States for Celebrating International Year of the Child

1906. SHRI PANDURANG DHARMAJI JADHAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government issued guidelines to State Governments to prepare the plans of action for the welfare of

children during the year 1979-80 which was celebrated as international year of the child;

(b) if so, how many children were covered under the Nutrition Food Programme during the above period in cities (i) with a population of one million or above and (ii) with a population of less than one million, State-wise;

(c) what is the financial assistance given to educational institutions for construction of Balwadis in rural areas. State-wise; and

(d) what arrangements have been made to provide playing Centres, Public Health Centres, and hospitals State-wise in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Governments were requested to make use of the National Plan of Action for the International Year of Child as guidelines for formulating programmes for the welfare of children, to be included in the State annual plans and make the required budget provisions.

(b) National coverage is estimated as follows:

1. Balwadi Nutrition Programme 2.3 lakh children (1978-79).

2. Special Nutrition Programme 69.18 lakh children, and nursing and expectant mothers (1978-79). State-wise details are furnished in the statement appended.

3. CARE-assisted Mid-day Meals Programme, 103.905 lakh children (1979-80).

4. Mid-day meals programme with indigenous food material 62.128 lakh children (1978-79).

5. Supplementary Nutrition in Integrated Child Development Ser-