

(b) The report about the Agro Service centres scheme having been a flop is not correct. Surveys, and evaluations carried out by different agencies of State and Central Governments reveal that the Agro Service Scheme showed satisfactory overall results. Besides providing employment to about 11,000 persons including about 3200 graduates in engineering and agriculture, the Centres have rendered useful service to the farming community specially in making available the services of expensive agricultural machinery on custom basis. About 75 per cent of the Centres set up were reported to be operating at a profit.

Most of the other points appearing in the news item referred to in part (a) above are under adjudication in the Supreme Court in several writ petitions filed by some of the Agro service entrepreneurs.

The Government of India's Agro Service Centre Scheme was transferred to the State sector *w.e.f.* 1-4-1979, along with other Centrally Sponsored Schemes as per the decision of the National Development Council. Hence further action in this matter is to be taken by the State Governments.

Land Reforms in various States

834. SHRI SUNDER SINGH
BHANDARI: SHRI HARI
SHANKAR
BHABHRA: SHRI
LAKHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1972 National guidelines for Land Reforms were circulated and nearly 39 lakh acres of land was found to be surplus for distribution among the deserving persons;

(b) the progress made in implementing the Land Reforms State-wise, in the light of those guidelines;

(c) whether the progress of land reforms has been found to be unsatisfactory; and

(d) whether any further guidelines have been given by the Centre to State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached. [See Appendix CXVI, Annexure No. 67].

(c) and (d) The overall progress in implementation of land reform measures cannot be considered unsatisfactory. The abolition of intermediary tenures, imposition of ceiling on land holdings and amelioration in the condition of tenants are substantial achievements. Nevertheless, the Government of India have been urging the State Governments to accelerate the pace of implementation of land reform laws. In particular, attention has been drawn to the need to improve the position in respect of distribution of ceiling surplus lands among the landless.

835. [Transferred to the 1st December, 1980].

Payment of interest on the amount deposited for Telephone connections by Delhi Telephones

836. SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA: SHRI
DINESH GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Telephones pay any interest to the persons who register themselves for telephone connections and deposit a security; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that telephone connections have been sanctioned by the Delhi telephones and OB Nos. issued but the telephones have not been provided so far;

(c) if so, the number of such cases and since when these OBs are pending;