

(b) by when Government propose to give the decision on the recommendations contained in the report; and

(c) what is the Central Government's decision on applications received from each State under the Act for permission to transfer of Urban property'

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) 26th April, 1980.

(b) It is difficult at this stage to indicate any precise date by which the Government would take decisions on the recommendations contained in the report.

(c) Section 27 of the Act already prescribes the procedure for transfer of urban property with the permission of the competent authority.

Slum dwellers in the country

269. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have formulated a scheme for solving the problems of growing slum dwellers in the country;

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

(c) what steps the Central Government are taking to solve the problems?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b) To tackle the problem of slums, two schemes are being operated in the State Sector. The Slum Clearance/Improvement Scheme, which was started in the Central Sector in May, 1956, is being operated as a State Sector Scheme with effect from 1-4-69. It has the following three basic components:—

(1) Rehousing eligible families living in slum areas through provision of developer plots, skeletal houses, dormitory/hostel type of accommodation and pucca tenements.

(2) Construction of night-shelters in cities and towns with acute problem of pavement dwellers.

(3) Improvement of environmental conditions in slum areas and improvement of pucca built dwellings in slum areas.

The Scheme for Environmental Improvement in Urban Slums, which is operated as part of the Revised Minimum Needs Programme in the State Sector, seeks to provide basic amenities and facilities in slum areas. The items of improvement which are provided under the Scheme are the following:—

(i) Provision of water supply, including drinking water taps;

(ii) Sewers;

(iii) Storm water drains;

(iv) community baths and latrines;

(v) widening and paving of existing lanes; and

(vi) street lighting.

(c) Due to constraint of resources, emphasis has shifted from a policy of relocation of slum dwellers to that of environmental improvement of existing slum settlements. The Scheme for Environmental Improvement in Urban Slums is in the State sector and the responsibility for planning, funding and execution is that of the State Government. The Draft Five Year Plan for the period 1980—85 is under formulation. Without making a firm commitment in this behalf, and subject to availability of funds, Government of India's endeavour would be to speed up the implementation of the scheme in such a manner that all the slums are covered by the end of this period.'

Cooperative farming

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

(a) whether Government have any plan to expand cooperative farming in the country;