

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI); (a) At present there is no proposal under consideration to start a massive sanitation drive in the villages.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The present strategy of the Government is to concentrate first on provision of potable drinking water to the villages within a defined time-span and thereafter take up the question of sanitation. Meanwhile the experience gained from pilot rural sanitation projects will be utilized to develop a proper approach.

Review of rural employment policy

985. SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to review the present rural employment policy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The question of providing gainful employment in the rural areas is engaging the attention of the Government of India and the existing policy of rural employment is under review.

The Integrated Rural Development (IRD) programme aims at generating employment opportunities in the rural areas. Presently, this programme covers 2,600 development blocks out of the total of 5,011 blocks in the country. For generating jobs on a larger scale and at a faster rate Government are considering the possibility of covering all the development blocks in the country under IRD programme.

Another employment generation programme is the National Scheme of Training of Rural Youth for Self

Employment (TRYSEM). To begin with 200,000 rural youth are to be covered under this scheme every year. Training in various technical skills, required for setting up rural industries, is being arranged under this scheme. Thereafter the rural youth are to be extended the facilities of tools and equipment, finance, raw materials and marketing in order to settle them in various projects of self-employment. The objective is to utilise raw materials available locally and to produce goods of popular consumption locally. Apart from providing additional employment, this scheme would relieve pressure on land also. It is proposed to enlarge the scope of this scheme so as to cover certain crafts and industries like carpet weaving, cottage match, etc. which would provide wage employment on a large scale. A deliberate effort would, however be made to upgrade wage earners gradually into partners in the enterprises.

The 'Food for Work' programme will continue to provide employment to the unskilled manpower on a sustained basis. Its operations are proposed to be stream-lined in order to make it a more effective instrument for generation of employment for the rural poor.

Under the 20-Point Programme new job opportunities for the handloom weavers, the landless, rural artisans etc. will be created on a significant scale.

Educational Institutions run by Harijan/Girijan people

986. SHRI PANDURANG DHARAMAJI JADHAV: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the educational institutions which have been founded and managed by the Harijan/Girijan people at present;