

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 denned 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 hand-loom weavers, the landless, rural artisans etc. will be created on a significant scale.

Educational Institutions run by Harijan/Girijan people

986. SHRI PANDURANG DHARAM AJI 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;

(b) whether the University Grants Commission propose to give substantial grants to the Colleges of such institutions on top priority basis;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government pay more grants to such institutions run by Dalit people in comparison to the grants given to other educational institutes;

(d) what are the schemes and to what extent the University Grants Commission sanction and release grants;

(e) whether there are any pending cases for giving grants to the educational institutes conducted and managed by the Dalit people;

(f) if so, by when the grants are likely to be released; and

(g) whether Government propose to enhance the grants to educational institutes founded and managed by the Dalit people?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKAR A-NAND): (a) Information about institutions founded and managed by Harijan/Girijan people is not maintained:

(b) No, Sir. The Commission does not provide assistance to colleges on the basis of their management.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) the Commission sanctions development grants to colleges for extension of buildings, libraries, laboratories, construction of hostels, improvement of faculty, strengthening the laboratories, libraries etc. Colleges located in backward areas, women's colleges and colleges which have 50 per cent enrolment belonging to Scheduled Castes [Tribes, are sanctioned building grants to the extent of 66.67 per cent of the approved cost for instructional buildings, and 75 per cent for hostels, as against the normal 50 per cent. The conditions of eligibility for development grants have also been relaxed in favour of this

category of colleges. In addition, the Commission had decided in May, 1979 that colleges located in the tribal areas and catering largely to the needs of tribal students may be provided special assistance. Such colleges which have maintained adequate standards would be provided assistance on 100 per cent basis for securing services <J outstanding teachers on exchange with other institutions for short periods, for organising remedial courses for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students, and for organising programmes of educational extension for assisting higher secondary schools in the neighbourhood, and to the extent of 75 per cent for programmes of construction of buildings, class rooms, laboratories, libraries and hostels, and for strengthening the laboratory and library facilities.

(e) and (f) Do not arise, (g) No such proposal is under consideration.

Procedure for the distribution of gas cylinders

987. SHRI PANDURANG DHARMAJI JADHAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the normal procedure for distribution of gas cylinders to the consumers;

(b) whether Government propose to appoint agents for distribution of gas cylinders to consumers;

(c) if so, what is the number of agents to be appointed in the near future, State-wise;

(d) what is the number of the agents appointed so far, State-wise;

(e) whether Government propose to give preferences to the Harijans and maintain their percentage in this line of business; and

(f) what steps Government are taking to fulfill the percentage or quota of Harijan agents in this regard?