

Indira Gandhi from 15th May, 1977. Consequent upon her election as M.P., the allotment of the aforesaid bungalow was regularised in her name from 8th November, 1978 on payment of a Licence-fee of Rs. 330 P.M.

(b) The N.D.M.C. is concerned with the supply of electricity and water for which bills are sent to the consumers by the N.D.M.C. direct.

(c) Two sheds of A.C. Sheets roofing and plane A.C. sheet walling have been erected in the above said bungalow, which are still there.

Abolishing of rehabilitation leases in Delhi

529. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to abolish the rehabilitation leases for the lands allotted to the displaced persons in Delhi; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) and (b) A proposal for conversion of leasehold system to freehold in respect of residential plots in Delhi is under consideration. No decision has yet been taken.

Problem of blindness in India

530. SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the magnitude of the problem of blindness in India;

(b) what are the details of the National Plan to deal with the problem; and

(c) what is the extent to which? dent has been made on the problem, during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) According to the information available, there are about 45 million people in India suffering from visual impairment and over 9 million people are¹ blind.

(b) The National Programme for Prevention of Visual Impairment and Control of Blindness aims at—

(i) intensifying educational efforts, on eye health care through media of mass communication and extension education methods;

(ii) extending eye care services through mobile units to restore sight and relieve eye ailments by adopting an 'eye-camp' approach; and

(iii) establishing a permanent infrastructure for community oriented eye health care.

(c) 13 lakh eye operations were performed during the last two years of which 6 lakh were performed in 1976-77 and 7 lakh in 1977-78. About 8 lakh operations are estimated to be performed during this year.

Major irrigation schemes

531. SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of on-going major-irrigation schemes;

(b) the number of such schemes or > which work is progressing according to schedule and the number which are behind schedule;

(c) the reasons for which these schemes are behind the schedule; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to expedite the completion of these schemes?