

regulate their entry according to carrying capacity of the land so as not to interfere with productive, protective and social functions of forests. It has also been recognised that minor forest product plays a vital role in the rural, particularly tribal economy and it is therefore necessary to provide for scientific exploitation of this produce and its organised sale through cooperatives or departmental agencies.

(5) *Forest Finance:* Forest being a long range enterprise has mostly suffered on account of inadequate funds for its development. In view of the recommendations of the National Commission on Agriculture more emphasis is to be given on financing the forest development activities through institutional finances. The necessity of linking forest production with development of forest based industries has also been emphasized as well as the necessity of securing adequate investments for development of forest based industries.

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(t>) *Implementation:* It has been recognised that forestry provides important source of employment and wherever possible direct departmental working, formation of cooperative and labour societies engaged in forest work be encouraged to achieve these objectives. Attempts are to be made to evolve uniform forest act and legal provisions and machinery should be strengthened for enforcement of the provisions of this legislation.

(7) *Education, Research and Extension:* Emphasis has been given on forest education and research. The necessity of having effective forest extension organisation to undertake extension work to make the people tree conscious and to obtain their goodwill and cooperation for the successful implementation of the policy has also been brought out in a very elaborate manner.

690 R.S.—4.

Population covered by Government medical units/hospitals in Orissa

234. SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of Central aid given to Orissa Government during the last three years for the Government medical units and hospitals in that State; and

(b) what is the percentage of population at present covered by the Government medical units and hospitals in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) The Central assistance to States for their annual plans is released in the form of block loans and block grants for the State Plan as a whole and is not related to any specific head of development, Scheme or projects such as Government Medical Units/Hospitals.

However allocation of Central Assistance for Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to Health during the 3 years 1975-76, 1976-77 and 1977-78 have been Rs. 188.92 lakhs, Rs. 274.91 lakhs and Rs. 401.13 lakhs respectively. During 1977-78, Rs. 7.14 lakhs have also been allocated to Orissa Government towards Community Health Services in Rural Areas.

(b) There is one Government medical unit for about 1.22 lakhs population.

Amendment of the Land Acquisition Laws

235. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend the existing land acquisition laws with a view to ensuring the breaking up of monopoly in land holdings; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) Land acquisition laws aim at securing land for projects of public importance and do not seek to change the existing ownership pattern. This is sought to be done through land ceiling legislations which limit the size of agricultural holdings and vest the surplus in the State for redistribution among the landless. Ceiling legislations exist in practically all States and are under implementation.

Area of surplus land

236. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have made an estimate of the total area of surplus land available in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, the area likely to be surplus to the ceiling is estimated at 55.46 lakh acres. This however, is a very tentative estimate and the actual extent of surplus can be definitely known after the disposal of cases under different ceiling laws. The State and Union Territory-wise break-up of this estimate is given in the appended statement. The estimate does not include Government land.

Statement

States/Union Territories	Area estimated to be surplus
Andhra Pradesh	10,00,000
Assam	4,00,000
Bihar	3,00,000

States/Union Territories	Area estimated to be surplus
Gujarat	10,12,923
Haryana	29,304
Himachal Pradesh	1,52,420
Jammu & Kashmir	—
Karnataka	4,00,000
Kerala	1,50,000
Madhya Pradesh	50,000
Maharashtra	3,70,650
Manipur	1,083
Orissa	2,00,000
Punjab	87,000
Rajasthan	7,94,000
Tamil Nadu	90,870
Tripura	4,981
Uttar Pradesh	2,50,000
West Bengal	2,00,000
Dadra & N. Havali	9,350
Delhi	1,500
Pondicherry	3,012
TOTAL	55,48,133

Decontrol of sugar

237. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to decontrol sugar; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure that the price of sugar does not increase as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Government's sugar policy is reviewed from time to time and various policy options including decontrol are always kept in view.