

vely more recent product Urea (with 45 to 46 per cent N), even though the latter is cheaper per unit of nitrogen content, and is half as bulky and, therefore, cheaper to transport. Barring certain special crops or soil conditions, the economy and efficiency of Urea compares favourably with Ammonium sulphate as a source of nitrogen. Efforts are, therefore, being made to supply Ammonium Sulphate wherever it is agronomically recommended and to wean away the farmers from the use of Ammonium Sulphate and to educate them about the cost and efficiency of Urea for which there is no shortage in the country.

Non-availability of Loans to New Allottees of Surplus land

514. SHRI GOVINDRAO RAM-CHANDRA MHAISEKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to the reluctance of financial institutions in advancing loans, the new allottees of surplus land in various States have not been able to utilize development assistance rendered to them;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to permit the State Governments to divert a part of the development assistance for utilisation as crop assistance to help the allottees; and

(c) whether Government propose to continue crop assistance and development assistance to non-allottees of surplus land during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b) Credit from co-operative institutions and commercial banks is available for agriculture. The Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions that 20 per cent of the short-term credit should be earmarked for small farmers. The new allottees of surplus land will benefit from this directive since they come under the category

of small farmers. In order that these cultivators in areas not covered by special schemes like the Drought Prone Areas Programme, Command Area Development Programme and Small and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Development Agencies are not inconvenienced for want of wherewithals for cultivation, the Union Government makes available funds to State Governments for providing financial assistance to allottees of surplus land (i) for meeting their immediate requirements of seeds, manures, fertilizers, pesticides and implements as well as consumption needs, and (ii) for undertaking essential land development measures.

(c) Schemes of providing assistance to the small and marginal farmers who are non-allottees of surplus land would continue during the current year also.

Shifting of Government Employees from Gole Market Area, New Delhi

515. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Estates, New Delhi has started shifting Government employees from their quarters in Gole Market to other areas in Delhi; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the question of taking up construction work in the area already vacated has to be reviewed in the light of Government's latest directive to reduce expenditure; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to defer the shifting of Government employees till the review is completed?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) The entire Gole Market area is to be redeveloped and the old quarters there, which have