

PATEL) : (a) and (b) The main loopholes in the Tamil Nadu land ceiling law are as follows :—

(i) "Stridhan land" up to 10 standard acres is allowed to be kept outside the family pool.

(ii) The law allows partitions and transfers so as to enable a landholder to retain independently land up to the ceiling area in the names of his minor sons, minor grand sons, unmarried daughters and unmarried grand daughters.

(iii) The law provides for payment of the amount for the acquisition of surplus land at rates considerably higher than those accepted in other States.

(iv) The law gives exemption from the ceiling to land under cinchona plantations, topes, fuel trees, orchards and arecanut gardens as well as to lands given in gallantry awards.

(v) According to the law, the ceiling is applicable to the beneficiaries of private trusts and not to the creators of private trusts. This may leave loopholes for retention of land in excess of the ceiling by a landholder who can create a private trust for the purpose.

The State Government has been advised to amend the law to bring it in conformity with the national guidelines. The State Government is now reviewing the position.

Primary Schools

320. SHRI INDERDEEP SINGH : Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government are aware of an alarmingly downward trend in admission of students in primary schools in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV) : (a) and (b) The official statistics of enrolment in primary schools through I to V Classes are being compiled in connection with the Third Educational Survey and the final figures are likely to be available in a few months. The figures, as communicated by the State Governments, however, indicate that the total enrolment has been increasing.

Irrigation Projects in U.P.

321. DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.P. Government have approached the Central Government for financial assistance for their plan to irrigate 27 lakh hectares of land in that State during the year 1976-77; and

(b) if so, what are the major irrigation projects included in the plan and what decision the Central Government have taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI K. N. SINGH) : (a) and (b) "Irrigation" is a State subject and irrigation projects are financed by the State Governments themselves. The Central assistance for State Plan Scheme is given in the form of block loans and grants for the State as a whole and it is not related to any particular sector of development or scheme.

The State's Annual Plan for 1976-77 envisages creation of an additional irrigation potential of 3.48 lakh ha. during 1976-77 with an outlay of Rs. 98.65 crores. A list of major irrigation projects included in the Plan is attached.