

grant assistance to State Governments to enable them to provide house sites free of cost to eligible families of landless workers in the rural areas. A provision of Rs 5 crores has been made in the 1972-73 Budget for this scheme, out of which an amount of Rs. 4 crores has already been committed to different States for providing nearly 1.57 lakhs house-sites to the landless.

ASSESSMENT OF LAND REFORMS  
PROGRAMME BY PLANNING  
COMMISSION

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\*334. SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE :  
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA  
SINGH :  
SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has lately pointed out that land reforms programmes have not only failed to bring about social justice but have also led to unsurmountable hurdles in the spreading of modern technology and improved agricultural practices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the Government reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) The Planning Commission has not made any critical assessment of land reform problem in the recent past. The concerned Division of the Planning Commission has, however, prepared a working paper reviewing the progress of land reforms in the country.

(b) A statement giving the main points brought out by the paper is placed on the Table of the Sabha. The paper was prepared to initiate discussion in the Planning Commission and does not necessarily project the views of the Planning Commission on the subject of land reforms.

STATEMENT

1. *Abolition of Intermediary Tenures*—Immediately after Independence high priority

was given to the abolition of intermediary tenures. Accordingly, every State promoted its own legislation for the abolition of intermediary tenures on payment of compensation, and by 1952, necessary legislation was adopted in all the States. The implementation of the enacted laws has since been practically completed in all the States. Only a few minor intermediary tenures still remain to be abolished and efforts are afoot to abolish them also. As a result of the abolition of intermediary tenures about 20 million tenants are estimated to have come into direct contact with the States. Large areas of privately owned forest land, grazing land and culturable waste land vested in the State. Implementation of these reforms imposed a heavy administrative and financial burden on the State Governments. Compensation payable to the ex-intermediaries has been computed at Rs. 600 crores out of which about Rs. 275 crores has been paid in cash and bonds.

2. *Reform of Tenancy*.—There had been leasing of land on a large scale even in areas where intermediary tenures did not obtain and sub-leasing where such tenures existed. The prevailing rates of rent were high and the tenants enjoyed little security of tenure. Three important guidelines were laid down in the Five Year Plans for the reform of tenancy. First, rent should not exceed 1/5th to 1/4th of the gross produce; secondly, the tenants should be accorded permanent rights in the land they cultivate subject to a limited right of resumption to be granted to landowners; and, thirdly, in respect of non-resumable land, landlord-tenant relationship should be ended by conferring ownership rights on tenants. All States have enacted legislation for regulating the rent payable by cultivating tenants. Maximum rates of rent have been fixed at levels not exceeding those suggested in the Five Year Plans in all States except Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and the Andhra area of Andhra Pradesh. In Punjab and Haryana fair rent is 1/3rd of the gross produce, in Tamil Nadu 33-1/3% to 40% and in the Andhra area of Andhra Pradesh 45% to 50%. The Andhra Pradesh State Assembly recently passed a Bill for reducing fair rent to the level of 30% of the produce for irrigated land and 25% for dry land. In Jammu &

Kashmir for tenants of landowners holding above  $12\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land fair rent is  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the gross produce for wet land and  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd for dry land. However, for tenants of landowners who own less than  $12\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land fair rent is half of the gross produce. Several States have enacted legislation for conferring security of tenure on tenants. Under the existing law the position of tenants, and particularly of share-croppers, continues to be insecure in Bihar, Tamil Nadu, the Andhra area of Andhra Pradesh, the Saurashtra area of Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana. Provisions have also been made in several States for enabling tenants to acquire ownership rights. Necessary legislation for this purpose is still to be enacted in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Tamil Nadu. Thus, in several States, in the matter of tenancy reform, legislation fails for short of the accepted policy. And the implementation of the enacted laws has been unsatisfactory in large parts of the country.

### 3. *Ceiling on Agricultural Holdings :—*

Laws imposing ceiling on agricultural holdings have been acted in all the States except the former Punjab areas of Haryana & Punjab, where the State Government has powers to settle tenants on lands held by owners in excess of the permissible limit. However, as a result of the high level of ceiling, large number of exemptions from the law, malafide transfers and partitions, and poor implementation, the results achieved have been meagre. So far only about a million hectares of land has been declared surplus. There are wide variations between different States with regard to the level of ceiling, unit of application, exemptions, etc.

4. *Consolidation of holdings.*—In the country most of the agricultural holdings are not only small but they are also widely scattered. Hence emphasis was laid on consolidation of holdings in the Five Years Plans. No law for effecting consolidation of holdings has yet been passed in the Andhra area of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. The laws of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal provide for consolidation on a voluntary basis. The other States have passed necessary legislation for compulsory consolidation. By 1969 about 34 million hectares

of land has been consolidated. The progress has been uneven in the different States. The work has been completed in Punjab and Haryana. Uttar Pradesh has made good progress and some headway has been made in Maharashtra. Not much has been done in the remaining States.

### SUICIDE BY VILLAGERS IN PURNIA

\*335. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :  
SHRI K. C. PANDA ;  
SHRI CHANDRAMOULI  
JAGARLAMUDI :  
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA  
SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been invited to a report appearing in the Motherland dated the 18th June, 1972, stating that six members of a family in village Majhua in Purnia District of Bihar recently committed suicide because they were unable to get foodgrains locally ; and

(b) whether the Government of India have received any report from the Government of Bihar in this regard and if, so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The report which appeared in the paper was referred to the Government of Bihar for investigation. The State Government has reported that it was not a case of starvation but that of food poisoning resulting in the death of two persons out of 4 who took poisoned food.

### WATER SUPPLY IN SAROJINI NAGAR, NEW DELHI

\*336. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in some blocks in Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi tube-