

are for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes and Tribals.

The total number of housing units completed in the urban areas under various Social Housing Schemes, introduced by the Ministry of Works and Housing, under each of the three Plans, both in the Centrally sponsored and the State Sectors, was as follows :

1st Plan	...	51,100 houses
2nd Plan	...	1,39,600 houses
3rd Plan	...	1,58,700 houses
TOTAL	...	3,49,400 houses

*285. [*Transferred to the 6th April, 1972.*]

PALAMAU DISTRICT AS BACKWARD REGION

*286. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYA-NARAYANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that West Germany has selected the District of Palamau as most backward in eastern India under their development programme; and

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure to be incurred by West Germany on the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) The question of taking up a multi-purpose agricultural development programme in Chhotanagpur region of Bihar State has been under discussions with the West German Government. Palamau has not been selected so far. In fact final views of German Government are not known.

(b) Does not arise at this stage.

FCI AS A SELLING AGENCY OF FOODGRAINS

*287. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India is having any proposal to function as a selling agency of foodgrains in addition to its function as a procurement agency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) The Food Corporation of India continues to function as distributing and selling agency.

(b) The details are as under :—

(i) Sale of wheat, rice and coarsegrains to State Governments for distribution through fair price shops.

(ii) Sale of wheat to roller flour mills.

(iii) Open market sale of wheat and coarsegrains at important market centres and depots.

(c) Does not arise.

WATER TRANSPORT BETWEEN ASSAM AND CALCUTTA via BANGLA DESH

*288. SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have under their consideration any scheme for resumption of water transport between Assam and Calcutta via Bangla Desh in the immediate future;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be resumed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :

(a) Yes, Sir; the Government propose to start inland water transport service between Assam and Calcutta via Bangla Desh.