

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: It is a very valuable suggestion. All these things are always taken into consideration, whether we should spend more money on repairs or on new construction.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know, Sir, if the persons who are dehousing as a result of this scheme will be provided alternative accommodation before these buildings are pulled down?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Not only that, we take these allottees, to new houses, We allot accommodation to them and in many cases I have given them the commitment that after these houses have been constructed, if they want to come to that very place they will have the option to do so.

SCHEMES REGARDING RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN WEST BENGAL

*16Q. SHRI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of West Bengal has written a letter to him regarding expeditious finalisation by the Planning Commission of schemes for the economic development of rural population submitted by the State Government; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT AND FOR PLANNING (SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN): (a) and (b) The scope of the rural works programme to be undertaken in West Bengal is being considered in consultation with the Chief Minister of West Bengal. The Planning Commission has agreed in principle to

additional projects being undertaken in West Bengal.

VALIDITY OF OLD PORTUGUESE LAWS IN DIU

*161. SHRI S. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that old Portuguese laws are still valid in Diu;

(b) whether it is a fact that numerous representations to the Government of India have been made by the citizens of Diu for the abolition of the old Portuguese laws; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The old Portuguese laws were allowed to continue after liberation till they were repealed or amended in order to ensure that administration continued without dislocation. The Government have taken steps to introduce progressively the essential Indian laws and have considered representations from individuals and organisations for the abolition of old Portuguese laws. Recently a draft Regulation has been finalised which will be promulgated about the middle of this month. The Regulation provides for the extension of about 105 Central and State enactments to the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu and repeal of corresponding Portuguese laws, rules, regulations, orders, etc.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: Is the Government aware that there is a common Civil Code existing in Goa applicable to all communities irrespective of religion?

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: Yes, Sir. We are aware of it.