

Chakma Refugees

52. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government for the repatriation of chakma refugees residing in India at present;

(b) the time by which the repatriation would commence and be completed;

(c) whether the Government propose to repatriate other Bangladeshis, apart from Chakmas, sheltered in the country, especially in the North-Eastern states; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) The Government of India and Bangladesh have held several meetings both at official and ministerial levels in recent months to finalise the repatriation programme of the Chakma refugees residing in India.

(b) The repatriation commenced from 15 February 1994. About 400 families are expected to be repatriated by 22 February 1994. Further programme for the repatriation of the remaining chakma refugees is being drawn-up.

(c) and (d). The other Bangladeshis, who are illegal immigrants, are being dealt with as per provisions of the Foreigners, Act.

Effects of use of Tobacco

53. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study on the effects of use of tobacco on forms other than cigarettes:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of the study?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). As per a recent study report published by ICMR in May/June, 1993 the use of tobacco in any form is harmful to health and leads to cancer, heart disease, obstructive lung disease, still-births, low birth weight etc.

Water-logging in Command Areas of Dams

54. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to inadequate drainage system in the command areas of major dam projects water logging has been a major problem;

(b) if so, the details of the areas water-logged in the country in the command areas; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken during the Eighth plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Inadequate drainage system may be one of the causes of water logging along with seepage and improper water management in the com-

mand areas of Major Dam projects.

(b) The working Group constituted by the Government of India, which submitted its report in April, 1992, has assessed that an area of 2.46 million hectares is waterlogged in the country in the command areas.

(c) To tackle the problem of waterlogging in the command areas, the Government have launched a Centrally sponsored command area Development programme. Materialia for on-farm Development works including the construction of field drains and works including the construction of field drains and works Banks assisted National water management project (NWMP) for better functioning of main irrigation distribution system. These programmes are included in the 8th plan.

Restructuring of Water Rates

*55. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on restructuring of water rates for agriculture has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof;

(c) the steps taken for implementation of these recommendations; and

(d) the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Committee on Pricing

of Irrigation Water set up by the Planning Commission in October, 1991 submitted its report in September, 1992.

(b) The suggestions of the Committee include teating water rates as users charge; the objective of water charges is ultimately to recover cost: linking revision of water rates to the improvement of the quality of service ; revision and improvementation of water rates in phases; consolidation of the system of farmer group management; upgrading the system to higher level efficiency in water use and productivity; setting up experts group at the State level for working out norms for operation and maintenance and or ocedure for periodic review; setting up of autonomous boards at the State level to review policy regarding cost of water; revising water rates and introducing a minimum financial return criteria.

(c) and (d). The copies of the Committee' report have already been sent to all states for their comments. The Planning Commission has meanwhile set up a Group of offecials to go into the report of the Committee. 'Irrigation' being a state subject, decision on water rates can be taken only in consultation with the State Governments and Union Territories.

Spinal Injuries Centres:

*56. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement with the U.S. National Institute of Disability Research and Rehabilitation to establish spinal injuries centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;