

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) Government's attention has been drawn to reports of incidence of asbestosis, cancer of the bronchial tubes and mesothelioma among workers exposed to asbestos dust

(b) There are in all 74 factories manufacturing asbestos products and employing 10,567 workers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). The Organisation of the Directorate General, Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes through its institutes at Bombay, Calcutta, Kanpur and Madras impart training to employees, managers and factory inspectors on various aspects of safety and health of workers in factories. The Director General has been advised to develop special training courses on occupational health in dangerous manufacturing processes including manufacture of asbestos and its products.

#### Writing off Cooperative Loans

1859. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMAN-GO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that some States have taken initiative to write-off the cooperative loans taken by the weaker sections ;

(b) if so, the names of States that have so far taken decision in this regard and the types of the loans considered for write off and the amount involved ; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to free particularly the SC and ST and other economically weaker sections of society from bank and cooperative loan bondage under different schemes meant for these sections ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) and (b). Government of India have no information whether any State Government has taken initiative to write off the co operative loans taken by the weaker sections during the current year, except in the case of the Union Territory of Pondicherry which has reported that a Committee had reviewed the cases of overdues in village co-operative Agricultural Credit Societies and Land Development Banks and recommended the writing off of milch animal loans as well as short term production loans availed of by marginal farmers and landless agricultural labourers who belong to weaker sections. The Union Territory of Pondicherry has further reported that on the basis of the above recommendations, a decision to write off milch animal loans and production loans to the extent of Rs. 9.19 lakh has been taken.

In the past, the Government of Madhya Pradesh had taken a decision to waive the recovery of irrecoverable dues of the farmers with land holding upto 10 acres in respect of short-term co-operative credit structure, involving an estimated amount of Rs. 8 crore. According to available information, the Governments of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka had also granted similar concessions to co-operative loanees belonging to weaker sections as indicated below :

1. Maharashtra	:	Rs. 45.03 crore	(1980-81 and 1981-82)
2. Tamil Nadu	:	Rs. 98.90 crore	(1979-80 to 1982-83)
3. Karnataka	:	Rs. 0.77 crore	(1980-81)

Besides, information is available to the effect that Kerala Government had written off in the year 1980-81, the entire amount of interest together with penal

interest accrued and pending payment as on 1-4-1980 in respect of loans issued to Small Marginal farmers prior to 1-4-1976. The amount involved was

Rs. 439.45 lakh. Further, in the year 1981-82, 75% of the interest together with penal interest accrued and pending payment as on 31-3-1981 in respect of all agricultural loans issued to small farmers before and upto 1-4-1978 was waived and written off in cases where the balance of arrears was repaid on or before 1-10-1981. The amount involved was Rs. 90.58 lakh.

Also, in Bihar, the State Government had decided to write off the amount of interest on co-operative loans of small and marginal farmers who paid back the principal amount by 30-6-1981. The total amount written off came to Rs. 20.23 crore.

(c) Under the existing cooperative credit structure, there are in-built provisions providing for relief to farmers, including weaker sections, by way of conversion of short-term loans into medium term loans in the event of occurrence of natural calamities, involving crop loss of 50% or more and also subject to revenue authorities making necessary declaration to that effect. Similar facilities for rescheduling of loans are also available in Commercial Banking Sector. The Government of India are also giving adhoc assistance to Cooperative Institutions to meet deficit in the Agricultural Credit Stabilisation Funds maintained in the States for meeting the requirements of conversion of short term loans into medium term loans, referred to above.

The Government of India have also introduced a new comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme with effect from Kharif 1985 season. All farmers availing of crop loans from co-operative credit institutions, commercial banks and regional rural banks for raising crops namely, wheat, paddy, millets, pulses and oilseeds are automatically brought in the fold of insurance coverage. Insurance coverage is built in as a part of the crop loan for raising crops.

[*Translation*]

**Allotment of Land for Schools by DDA**

1860. SHRI LALA RAM KEN :  
Will the Minister of WORKS AND

HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the terms regarding allotment of land by DDA to the schools being run by the social service institutions ;

(b) the number of institutions which have been allotted land during 1985 for running Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools separately and the rates per square metre charged in each case ;

(c) the number, area and price of plots reserved for opening of Nursery Schools in Blocks from B-1 to B-5 in Paschim Vihar, New Delhi ;

(d) whether any special concession has been given for the allotment of plot to the organisations working for the welfare of Scheduled Castes for running schools ; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR):

(a) The terms and conditions of the allotment are given in the Statement below.

(b) During the year 1985 from January to July, 7 sites have been allotted by DDA to private institutions for construction of Higher Secondary Schools and 3 sites have been allotted for construction of Middle/Primary Schools. The rate charged in these cases was Rs. 6 lacs per acre (Provisional)

(c) As per the approved plan of Paschim Vihar Block 'B' 18 Nursery School sites have been proposed with an area of 1.82 hect. (4.5 acres). 6 sites have been proposed in the plotted development area and the remaining 12 sites have been proposed in the Group Housing Pkt, BG-1 to BG-5, the rate charged is Rs. 6 lacs per acre (Provisional).

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.