

to their needs and priorities. The Sixth Five Year Plan emphasised on environmental improvement of urban slums rather than attempting a massive relocation. In order to boost up the pace of implementation of the Scheme, Central Government had introduced a Scheme of Central incentive grants to the States for additional coverage of slums during the last two years of the 6th Plan, 7th Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised.

Housing Loans to Government Employees

2044. SHRI SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan to extend housing loans to all employees of the Central Government at a lower rate of interest for solving housing problems, just as the bank employees enjoy ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Service conditions and facilities available to the Government employees and bank employees are not identical. Rates of interest for House Building loans to Government employees have been fixed having regard to the Government's cost of borrowing and the repaying capacity of the employees.

Import of Milch Cattle from EEC Countries

2045. SHRI SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND

RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to import milch cattle from EEC countries ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether such cattle can be reared in the Himalayan or sub-Himalayan regions of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. An offer was received by the Government from Her Highness Princess Irene of Greece for donation of cows from European Economic Community (EEC) countries. The modalities of acceptance of the gift have not been finalised.

(c) Yes Sir.

Allocation of Rice to Kerala

2046. PROF. P.J KURIEN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the monthly allocation of rice to Kerala from the Central pool during the past six months ;

(b) the actual demand from Kerala and the actual quantity supplied ; and

(c) the reasons for not meeting the full requirement of Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The demand, allotment and offtake of rice from the Central Pool in respect of Kerala during the past six months was as under :

(Qty. in '000 tonnes)

Month	Demand	Allotment	Offtake
1985			
March	135.0	110.0	108.0
April	135.0	110.0	104.1
May	150.0	110.0	118.3
June	135.0	115.0	114.9
July	135.0	120.0	Not available
August	135.0	125.0	Not available

A special one-time allocation of 25 thousand tonnes of rice has also been made to the State Government in July, 1985, in addition to the normal monthly allocation.

(c) The allocations from the Central Pool are only supplemental to the availability in the open market.

Demand for more Rice from Kerala

2047. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala have demanded more rice to meet the requirements during the lean months and also to meet the immediate requirements of the victims of floods ; and

(b) if so, the quantity demanded and the quantity supplied ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Government of Kerala had requested in May, 1985, for increase in the monthly quota of rice by at least 25,000 tonnes for the months of July, 1985 to October, 1985 to meet the increased demand during the lean months. The State Government further intimated in July, 1985, that the unprecedented floods in the State necessitated supply of free rations to the poor victims.

The monthly allocation of rice to Kerala was increased from 1,10,000 tonnes in May, 1985 to 1,15,000 tonnes in June, 1985, 1,20,000 tonnes in July, 1985 and 1,25,000 tonnes in August, 1985. Apart from these normal monthly allocations, a special one-time allocation of 25,000 tonnes of rice has also been made to the State Government in July, 1985, to meet their increased requirements.

Increase in Coconut Production

2048. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND

RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the majority of the Coconut holdings in the country are small and marginal and their productivity is low ; and

(b) if so, specific steps being taken to increase the productivity of these holdings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) and (b). Majority of Coconut holdings in the country are small and marginal. So far no study has been conducted on the productivity of coconut due to differences in the size of holding in the coconut growing States.

The following steps are being taken to increase the productivity of coconut in the country (i) production and distribution of disease-free seedlings of hybrids and other high-yielding varieties (ii) rejuvenation of diseased and unproductive holdings and replacement of diseased palms and (iii) popularisation of improved package of practices through demonstration programme.

[Translation]

Sub-Standard Material used by DDA

2049. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Development Authority has been using substandard material as a result of which the houses are not durable and whether Government have received many complaints in this regard ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) and (b). Complaints regarding use