

recommendations made by the study group set up by the Planning Commission to work out the potential for rice productivity in the eastern region of the country are given below :

- (1) More effective flood control measures in the Bihar plains, especially in the Northern plains, coastal districts of Orissa and West Bengal and Gangetic plains in east U.P.
- (2) Speedy construction of field channels and drainage channels in the canal command areas of the four states, preferably in conjunction with land consolidation programmes.
- (3) Regulated water supply in the commands by provision of shutters and other devices and the introduction of Warabandi system to promote efficiency as well as equity in water distribution.
- (4) Erosion control in the plateau regions of Bihar, Orissa, and West Bengal, through soil conservation, programmes including terraced cultivation, afforestation on hilly slopes, pasture development on fallow or waste lands, inter-cropping etc.
- (5) Soil amelioration programmes in areas with problem soils like acidity in the plateau regions, salinity and alkalinity in several east U.P. and North Bihar plains districts.
- (6) Development of infrastructural facilities like sale outlets, roads, seed multiplication farms, credit facilities, etc. to step up the supply and distribution of modern inputs like new seeds fertilisers, diesel, power, etc. more equitably among different regions and different sections of the farm community.
- (7) Ground water development programmes with emphasis on

modern methods like drip and sprinkler systems in undulating areas of water scarcity and on energisation of pumpsets and tubewells.

- (8) Research emphasis on developing new paddy varieties more resistant to floods/droughts, and suited to low land/upland situations.
- (9) Promotion of inter-cropping of cereals, and pulses/oilseeds especially on uplands.

(b) For taking actions the report of the Study Group has been sent to all agencies concerned including State Governments by the Planning Commission.

A Centrally Sponsored Special Rice Production Programme is being implemented during the 7th Plan for increasing rice productivity in the States of Assam, Bihar, Eastern Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal at a total financial outlay of Rs. 10500.00 lakh as Central Share.

#### Implementation of Land Reforms Measures

3592. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE.  
SHRI T. BASHEER.  
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA.  
SHRI MANIK REDDY.  
SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY.  
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether in the opinion of Union Government, the implementation of various land reform measures in States/ Union Territories is considered tardy ; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof and the effective measures proposed to be

taken for speedy implementation of land reforms measures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3082/86]

#### Procurement Price of Raw Jute

3593. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new procurement price of jute this season has been announced by Government ;

(b) if so, the details ; and

(c) the arrangements being made to procure all the available jute from the growers directly by the Jute Corporation of India at remunerative prices to prevent distress sale ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. As stated on the floor of the House on 21st February, 1986, Government have fixed the statutory minimum price of raw jute for the 1986-87 season at Rs. 225 per quintal for the W-5 Grade in Assam ; the corresponding prices for various grades at different centres being fixed by the Jute Commissioner in the light of normal market price differentials. The Jute Corporation of India will undertake market support operations for raw jute as and when necessary.

(c) During the 1986-87 season, the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has undertaken to purchase whatever quantity of raw jute is offered to it by growers at the statutory minimum price fixed by Government. The JCI and Cooperatives, acting as agents of the JCI, have decided to operate through the same number of

purchase centres this season as in the previous season during which an all time record purchase of 28.15 lakh bales was achieved. The JCI is also giving wide publicity to its support operations and advising growers not to make any distress sale of raw jute to middlemen below the statutory minimum price.

#### Closure of Iron Ore Mines in Orissa

3594. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some iron ore mines in Orissa have closed down recently ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the reasons that led to the closure ; and

(d) the number of workers affected as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Special Funds to Rajasthan for Drinking Water Supply

3595. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the new formula evolved by Union Government to provide funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme to different States during the current year ;

(b) whether this formula is not reasonable and justified for the desert State like Rajasthan which is facing drinking water crisis ; and

(c) if so, whether Union Government propose to modify the formula and provide special funds for Rajasthan in the