

[*Translation*]

**Distribution of soyabean minikits to farmers**

379. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether minikits of soyabean are proposed to be distributed to the cultivators by Government alongwith other minikits; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1986-87 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of assistance to small and marginal farmers, the State Governments have been advised to distribute 1.25 lakh minikits of soyabean to the small and marginal farmers alongwith other oilseed minikits.

[*English*]

**Assistance to Maharashtra for drought relief**

380. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government are aware that 6,000 heads of cattle received protective custody in 22 camps in drought-hit districts of Maharashtra during its worst phase this year;

(b) whether farmers sold off milch cows and old bullocks as fodder was scarce and it was difficult for them to support their animals; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the assistance provided by the Central Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c)

The information about the number of cattle camps and the population of cattle therein as well as the information regarding sale of milch cows and old bullocks has been called from the State Government. The same will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as it is received. The request of Maharashtra Government for Central assistance for tackling drought including cattle conservation is under consideration.

**Comprehensive legislation against exploitation of bidi workers]**

381. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether 40 lakhs bidi workers in the country are being exploited by the bidi factory owners;

(b) whether Government have any plan to bring out a comprehensive legislation to end their exploitation and to give them all facilities as are available to other industrial workers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir. The number of Beedi Workers employed by factory owners is a fraction of the total number engaged in beedi processing industry.

(b) and (c) The Central legislation "Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act 1966" is quite comprehensive. The implementation of the Act rests with State Governments. There are no plans to bring out any other legislative measure.

**Land Bank for housing by HUDCO**

382. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) has launched a new scheme of Land Bank