

of satellite imageries do not support the view that Thar desert continues to grow. However, the resources within the desert are showing indication of deterioration due to over-exploitation and opportunistic land-use tendencies, on account of increase in human and animal population in the desertic regions.

(c) Desertification control measures are being taken by a number of departments, the most important of which is the Desert Development Programme (DDP), a central sector scheme of the Department of Rural Development.

#### Sanction for Drainage Scheme

370. SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Planning Commission has sanctioned Rs. 10 crores this year for the drainage schemes in the Kosi and Gandak command area;

(b) if so, whether similar grants will be made available to Orissa also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKHRAM) : (a) No, Sir. Central Assistance is given to the State Plan in the form of block loan and grants and it is not related to individual schemes. Planning Commission has not sanctioned any such grant for the drainage works in the Kosi and Gandak command areas.

(b) and (c). Do not arise in view of the reply above.

#### Self Employment Programme for Urban Poor

371. SHRI MURLI DEORA :  
SHRI SRIHARI RAO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor is successful and working as intended;

(b) the number of loan applications received under the said scheme; and

(c) the number of persons to whom loans have been sanctioned and the total amount disbursed so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) was launched on 1st September, 1986 for providing self employment opportunities to the urban poor with the family income of not more than Rs. 600 per month and residing in city/town with a population exceeding 10,000 as per 1981 census. The programme has received a good response from the intended beneficiaries. The Reserve Bank of India has reported that according to the provisional data available with them 4.83 lakh applications were received under Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP). Out of these 1.30 lakhs were sanctioned and disbursement of Rs. 32.18 crores was also made in 1.10 lakh cases.

#### Schemes for Alleviating Urban Poor

372. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes meant for alleviating the urban poor;

(b) the funds allocated to them during the last three years; and

(c) the results achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) which was launched on 1st September, 1986. The programme covers cities/towns with population exceeding 10,000 as per 1981 census and which are not covered under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). Persons whose total family income is not more than Rs. 600 per month are eligible for assistance not exceeding Rs. 5000 with capital subsidy of 25 per cent to undertake viable