

(b) whether the Committee has recommended that Samachar Bharati and Hindustan Samachar should not be revived; and

(c) if so, what would be the fate of employees working in these agencies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b). The Committee has made the following specific recommendations :—

- (i) The reaction of a fulfilled news agency with adequate technological back up will require atleast Rs. 3 crores for capital expenditure and, in addition, recurring expenditure of Rs. 1 crore per year. The Indian language newspapers are not at all in a position to raise even 50% of this capital. Further the running cost of Rs. 1 crore per year cannot be recovered from Hindi/Indian language subscribers.
- (ii) On the other hand, if Indian Languages service is added to infrastructure of an existing news agency, the additional annual cost will be only Rs. 50 lakhs per year. There will be practically no capital cost. This level of annual expenditure can be managed both by the newspapers and other subscribers like AIR and Doordarshan. If, however, there is still any deficit the news agency concerned can bear it.

The Government has not yet taken a final view on these recommendations. It was the view of the editors and proprietors of the leading language newspapers that it is not possible to revive the existing two Hindi news agencies namely Samachar Bharti and Hindustan Samachar.

(c) It is open to the employees to seek redressal under the laws/rules governing their service conditions.

**New Schemes for Construction of Janata Flats for Weaker Sections by D.D.A.**

3990. SHRI LAL RAM KEN ;  
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Development Authority (DDA) are preparing and new scheme for construction of smaller flats, or Janata flats for the weaker sections of the society in future; and

(b) if so, details thereof and when such scheme is likely to be announced for the information of general public ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) There are already schemes with the DDA for construction of smaller flats or Janta flats for the Weaker Sections of the society. No new scheme is being prepared.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

**Impact of Rural Development Programmes on the Rural Economy in West Bengal**

3991. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rural development programmes sponsored by the Central Government since 1979-80 have made any impact on the rural economy in West Bengal ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the impact of such programmes in West Bengal as compared to the impact of such programmes in other States and Union Territories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (c). The

major rural development programmes of this Ministry being implemented in West Bengal are Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Land Reforms. The Ministry has not conducted any evaluation on the impact of these programmes on the rural economy in West Bengal as such. Evaluation studies of some of these programmes and periodical reports throw some light on impact of these programmes on rural economy including that of West Bengal. Two major evaluation studies of IRDP have been conducted one by the Plan Evaluation Organisation (PEO) and the other by NABARD. Both these studies included sample households from the districts of West Bengal. According to the study conducted by the F.E.O., 49.4% of the sample households have crossed the poverty line while as per the NABARD study, this percentage is 47. State-wise figures of households having crossed the poverty line have not been indicated in these studies. However, the coverage of beneficiaries during the 6th Plan period was 71.38% of the target in West Bengal (7.17 lakh families assisted as against the target of 10 lakhs). The All-India figure for the VIth Plan is 16.55 million families assisted a target of 15 million (i.e. an achievement of 109%).

A research-cum-impact study on soil conservation measures adopted under DPAP, was made by the Operation Research Group Bhubaneswar in 1980s in a few districts of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal. As per the findings of this study 94% of the beneficiaries in Purulia (West Bengal) and 90% each Phulbani (Orissa) and Palamau (Bihar) reported benefit from soil conservation schemes by way of conservation of fallow lands for cultivation and change in cropping pattern 6% of farmers in Purulia (as against 18% in Phulbani and 16% in Palamau) are reported to have been raising crops particularly in areas lying fallow previously. 49% of farmers in Purulia 52% in Palamau 20% in Phulbani

reported changeover from low duty crops like millets to high duty crops like paddy. According to a few impressions, the average increase in productivity has been of the order of 254% in the case of Purulia as against 240% in Phulbani and 234% in Palamau.

Under NREP, no evaluation studies have been completed so far. However, the objective of the programme was to generate 300-400 million mandays of employment in rural areas every year, simultaneously creating durable assets to strengthen rural infrastructure and improve the nutritional standards of the poor. As far as West Bengal is concerned, 138.35 million mandays of employment was generated under the programme during the VIth Plan period as against 1774.37 million mandays of employment generated in the country as a whole. Besides, a large number of assets have also been created. RLEGP was introduced only in August, 1983 and it is too early to assess its impact on the rural economy.

As regards land reforms, the total ceiling surplus land distributed in West Bengal since 1979-80 was 1,10,369 acres as against 9,99,796 acres for the country as a whole.

#### Modernisation of conventional rice milling industry

3992. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps for the modernisation of conventional rice milling industry in the country ;

(b) if so, the number of conventional rice mills modernised so far ;

(c) how many of such conventional rice mills in Orissa have been brought under the above modernisation programme ; and

(d) the details thereof ?