

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 ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information presently available about 7,6 thousand conventional rice mills have been modernised.

(c) and (d). 164, out of which 139 are huller-cum-sheller and 25 are sheller type of rice mills.

Utilisation of land by Bhartiya Kala Kendra etc.

3993. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3693 on 19 March, 1984 regarding utilisation of land by Bhartiya Kala Kendra etc. and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that even though it had been stated in the above answer that no penalty had been imposed on Sangeet Bharati for constructing 906 square feet of residential area, a penalty of Rs. 34897 34 had in fact been imposed on Sangeet Bharati as early as March 1981 for constructing only 906 square feet of residential area against the permissible limit of 15877 square feet and the institution had already paid Rs. 27153 in instalments.

(b) whether a representation had been made by Sangeet Bharati in April, 1984 for refund of the amount paid ;

(c) if so, decision taken thereon ; and

(d) whether any reply has since been sent to the Sangeet Bharati in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) The various charges claimed were in accordance with the instructions in force and the policy of the Government at that time whereas by March, 1984 the Government policy in this regard had undergone a change.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The master has been under examination.

(d) No, Sir.

CLUSA oilseeds project

3994. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what was the best productivity of various vegetable oilseeds as compared to the present productivity, including coconuts ;

(b) whether under CLUSA oilseeds project, there was to be yearly improvement in productivity in the States to be covered and if so, year-wise figures for oilseeds crops in the States covered since CLUSA started ;

(c) whether instead of concentrating on groundnuts and a few other oilseeds as per approved CLUSA project in the States to be covered, attention is being paid to new crops like Soyabean and the States not included earlier are now being covered and if so, reasons for changes made ; and

(d) whether any evaluation has been done by the Nodal Ministry and the Planning Commission on CLUSA project and if so, results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The best productivity of various oilseeds since start of the National Dairy Development Board's (NDDB) project for "Restructuring edible oil and oilseeds production and marketing" in 1979-80 and the present