

(b) Special attention has been paid by the Central Government from June, 1977 onwards for providing safe drinking water in problem villages in the country. An Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme has been launched by the Government of India in 1977-78 for giving cent per cent grants-in-aid to States/ Union Territories (including Mizoram) for this purpose. Specific assistance was earmarked separately for drinking water supply schemes in the hilly areas in Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland.

(c) A sum of Rs. 15 lakhs has been given as cent per cent grant to the Government of Mizoram during 1977-78 for execution/completion of rural water schemes of problem villages approved under this Programme.

Central assistance was given to Mizoram in addition to Rs. 65 lakhs provided for rural water supply schemes of Mizoram in State Sector.

Production and Distribution of Better Quality seeds

5225. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH SAYIAN WALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have evolved a definite programme/ scheme to produce better quality seeds in the country with a definite time schedule and proper distribution system keeping in view the small farmers ;

(b) whether for this purpose soils in some States have been tested to grow better quality seeds ; and

(c) whether Punjab is one of the States where arrangements for seed production have been made ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have evolved the National Seeds Programme.

(b) Soil testing is an integral agricultural measure not specifically related to the National Seeds Programme as such. However zones have been identified in the States taking into account the overall advantages they enjoy over other areas in the matter of seed production.

(c) Yes, Sir.

University At Palani

5226. SHRI K.A. RAJU : Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a separate University at Palani of Madurai District with the funds of Shri Dhandayuthapani Swamy Devasthanam, Palani as done in the case of Tirupathi Shri Venkateswara University ;

(b) if so, whether he is aware that there are about 4 colleges in Palani to create a University and thus reduce the present bigger jurisdiction of Madurai University; and

(c) if so, whether a time bound programme is fixed for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER) : (a) to (c). No such proposal is under consideration of the Central Government or the University Grants Commission.

Urbanisation Programme of Asalatpur Village, Janakpuri, New Delhi

5227. SHRI S.S. SOMANI : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased refer to the reply given to Unstarred question No. 4620 on 25th July, 1977 regarding development of urbanised villages under DDA Plan and state :

(a) whether laying of Sewer lines and development of surrounding lands formed an essential part of the urbanisation programme of Asalatpur village in Janakpuri, New Delhi ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that this work has not been even touched by the DDA so far, thus converting the village and its surroundings into a slum ; and

(c) the reasons therefor and the steps that are being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT) : (a) Development of Asalatpur village including laying of sewer lines is a part of urbanisation programme of Delhi Development Authority.