

Closure of Universities

7904. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Universities have been closed down during the last few weeks due to the student agitations; and

(b) if so, what are the Universities affected thereby and what are the main reasons of the agitations and what action were being taken by the Government to create a peaceful atmosphere in Universities?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b). According to information available most of the Universities in Bihar and some in Uttar Pradesh, namely those at Allahabad, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Pantnagar and Benaras Hindu University were affected by violence and lawlessness during the past few weeks. The main reason in most of these cases was the issue relating to reservation in jobs for backward classes. In the case of Benaras Hindu University, the demand for reservation in medical college and the subsequent assault on the Rector were the reasons for closure. The Pantnagar University was affected by the demonstration by farm labourers and police firing on them. There were also demands like postponement of examinations and removal of Vice-Chancellor, etc.

All the State Governments, have again been requested to take steps to look into genuine grievances of the students and redress them immediately. They have also been advised to set up a suitable machinery to keep a regular watch on the situation and take timely action to ensure that minor problems do not become major issues.

Irregular Allotment of Hotel Site by N.D.M.C. in Man Singh Road

7905. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inquiry Report into the irregular allotment of land by NDMC to a leading hotel company for constructing a five star hotel on Man Singh Road has since been received by Government;

(b) if so, brief details of the case and findings of the inquiry committee in the matter; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a). Yes Sir.

(b) In June 1976, the New Delhi Municipal Committee handed over a plot of land at I, Man Singh Road, New Delhi to a leading hotel company for the construction of a hotel, in anticipation of formal agreements with the company. The agreements were executed in December 1976. A news item appeared in the Times of India dated 11th May 1977 alleging irregularities in this transaction. The Delhi Administration had an enquiry conducted into the transaction. The Enquiry Officer has come to the following main conclusions in his report:

(1) The terms have been unduly favourable to the hotel company.

(2) Procedures and norms of financial propriety have been violated in processing the case.

(3) There seems to have been a collusive alliance to push through the scheme on the part of certain

officers etc. of the New Delhi Municipal Committee.

(c) The matter is under consideration in consultation with the C.B.I. Certain officers involved in this case have already been suspended on other charges.

Food for work Programme for Irrigation works

7906. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI AHMED M. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have launched a food-for-work programme in major, medium and minor irrigation works;

(b) if so, the highlights of the programme; and

(c) the States where it is being implemented and what assistance is being given to the State Governments concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). The Food for Work Programme was started in April 1977 and is being continued during 1978-79. Under the programme, assistance in the form of foodgrains, primarily wheat and milo, is provided to the States for augmenting their resources for taking up on going Plan and non-Plan schemes, new items of capital works and maintenance of public works. The categories of works which qualify

for assistance under the scheme include major, medium and minor irrigation works; flood protection, drainage and anti water-logging works; soil and water conservation and afforestation works on Government and community lands; roads, including State Highways; construction of inter-mediate and main drains, field channels and land levelling etc. in the irrigation command areas; school buildings and community centres belonging to the Government and local bodies including Panchayats provided provision for expenditure on such schemes is reflected conventionally in the State Budget.

The scheme is designed to offer gainful employment to the rural poor and improve their nutritional and income levels through development of infrastructures and durable community assets through utilisation of foodgrains stocks.

(c) The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Punjab, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are at present implementing the scheme.

Under the scheme, foodgrains, primarily wheat and milo are made available to the State Governments for the payment of a part or all of wages of the labour engaged in the execution of specified works taken up under the scheme. State Governments have to indicate additionality of expenditure by showing additional provisions in their budgets. Allocation of foodgrains during the year 1977-78 to different States were of the order of 204,580 tonnes. Another 1,17,000 tonnes have been allotted during April 1978. The list showing the quantities of foodgrains allocated to the States during 1977-78 and 1978-79 is enclosed.