

(a) whether the transaction between New Delhi Municipal Committee and Indian Hotels Limited, a Tata concern, on leasing out of N.D.M.C.'s Hotel complex at Man Singh Road was found unduly favourable to the Hotel Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to invite fresh tenders for leasing out of the said complex annulling the old transaction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) and (b). The matter is still under C.B.I. investigation.

(c) No. Sir. No such proposal is under consideration of N.D.M.C.

(d) Does not arise.

New Text Books for Students of Secondary Schools

167. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the instructions have been issued for writing new text books for students in Secondary Schools; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI RENUKA DEVI BARAKATAKI): (a) and (b). The Text books are prescribed/recommended by the various affiliating Boards for their respective Member-Schools. Taking note of the recommendations of the Ishwarbhai Patel Committee on 10 year school curriculum and the Adiseshiah Committee, the Conference of Boards of Secondary Education held in February, 1978 recommended

that the Member-Boards should take up the development of Text Books on scientific lines, keeping in view the norms prepared by the NCERT.

Buffer Stock of Sugar

168. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to build a buffer stock of sugar;

(b) if so, the details and purpose thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c). In view of the bumper sugar production this year and the large accumulation of sugar stocks the Government is considering the policy for the remaining portion of 1977-78 and the 1978-79 season. Building up of a buffer stock of sugar, is one of the measures whose need and feasibility are being examined.

D.D.A. Flats for Retired Personnels

169. SHRI K. PRADHANI:

SHRI RAJE VISHVESHWAR RAO:

SHRI CHITUBHAI GAMIT:

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

(a) whether any scheme for the consideration of houses has recently been framed for lower and middle income group employees of Government who are on the eve of retirement; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the scheme and whether any period has been fixed to construct houses for the Middle Income Group and if so, the

criteria adopted by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) The Delhi Development Authority has no such scheme.

(b) Does not arise.

Education facilities to Poor People

170. SHRI S. S. SOMANI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan prepared for reconstruction of the educational system on a priority basis has recommended that the facilities extended to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes be made available to the poor people as well;

(b) whether simultaneous efforts are being made to reduce poverty and inequality in society and to provide good education to all the people; and

(c) if so the amount of money annually being sanctioned for the poor sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) Working groups set up to prepare programmes of action for the plan 1978—83, in the areas of adult education and universalisation of elementary education have recommended special efforts to promote these programmes among the weaker sections of our population.

(b) and (c). One of the main objectives of the Five Year Plan, 1978—83, is to raise the standard of the poorest sections of the population and to provide some of the basic needs, like education, to the people in these income groups. For this purpose, among other things, a revised minimum needs programme has been proposed in the draft five year plan with

an outlay of Rs. 4.180 crores. It would, however, be difficult to indicate, at this stage, the exact amount which would be available annually specifically for the benefit of the poor, because the draft Five Year Plan 1978—83 is not yet finalised.

Irrigational facilities in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

171. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware that the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands do not have any irrigational facilities;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to bringing agricultural lands under irrigation;

(c) whether Government received any investigation report on Kalpong river in North Andaman for construction of Dams for irrigational purposes; and

(d) if so, Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PATAP SINGH): (a) There are at present no irrigational facilities in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from major and medium irrigation Schemes. Some irrigation facilities are, however, being provided in the Union Territory through minor irrigation works during the last 4 years. An outlay of Rs. 5 lakhs has been approved for minor irrigation works in the Union Territory for 1978-79.

(b) to (d). The Government of India, in the Department of Irrigation, have constituted a Central Team with representative of the Department of Agriculture, Central Electricity Authority and the Central Water Commission to visit the islands and