

(c) The criteria suggested for the selection of blocks out of the 2000 blocks under the programme are:

- (i) It might be logical to allot blocks more or less on a pro-rata basis to each district presently covered under SFDA, DPAP and CAD.
- (ii) Blocks with more than 20 per cent scheduled caste population should be covered first.
- (iii) Higher incidence of unemployment and under-employment might be kept in view if such figures are available.
- (iv) Potentiality for development and organisational framework that has been built up.
- (v) Low agricultural productivity.
- (vi) Low consumption level and preponderance of people below poverty line.

(d) The programme has only recently been initiated for which guidelines for and methodology for planning and implementation of the intensive development of blocks under the integrated rural development programme have been sent to the State Government. A sum of Rs. 17.50 lakhs, @ Rs. 2.5 lakhs per block has also been released just recently for the implementation of the programme in the aforesaid seven blocks. Since the implementation of the programme has been taken up only very recently, it is too early to expect any achievement under the programme.

Janata Bio-Gas Plants

1025. SHRI M. A. HANNAN ALHAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any modified design of bio-Gas plant termed as Janata bio-gas plant has been made; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, with the comparative studies in comparison to other types of bio-gas plants?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Planning Institute, Government of Uttar Pradesh has developed a drumless bio-gas plant named as 'Janata Bio-gas plant' at their Gobar Gas Research Station, Ajitmal, (Etawah).

(b) The plant is an under ground dome, made of cement and bricks enamel painted from the inside, with a sloping masonry inlet and rectangular plastered outlet. The crown of the dome has an opening which is provided with a cement concrete disc cover, seated from all sides and held in position by its own weight. The distinctive feature of this design is that the gas holder and digester are combined in one unit. There are no moving parts in this design, and wear and tear and maintenance are kept at minimum. The other advantages of Janata Bio-gas Plant over the conventional design of bio-gas plant appear to be as follows:

- (i) Low installation and maintenance cost.
- (ii) Simple design and easier construction.
- (iii) Angle iron and sheets are not required.
- (iv) Being under-ground construction, top surface can be used for other purposes.

Studies in regard to its performance and suitability under different agro-climatic condition are being conducted.

Seminars of Rural Development

1026. SHRI SUDHIR GHOSAL:
SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR:

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

(a) whether the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation had attended

more than two dozens of Seminars connected with Rural Development during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details of the subjects discussed in these Seminars and the names of the organisers and the participants;

(c) the conclusion of each Seminar date-wise, Seminar-wise;

(d) the action taken up-to-date after each of the Seminars by the Ministry after the deliberation of each Seminar, date-wise, subject-wise; and

(e) the number of Seminars on Rural Development likely to be organised by the Ministry or with the help of the Ministry during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (e). The information is being collected, and will be placed on the Table of the House soon.

Low cost Bio-Gas Plants

1027. DR. BIJOY MONDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had taken up a moderate plan for bio-gas plants in the country during the Fifth Plan period;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the Plan and the number of bio-gas plants installed in the country, State-wise and year-wise up-to-date;

(c) whether the Ministry has initiated the study about the reduction of the cost of the bio-gas plant as the present conventional Gobar gas plants is high capital investment oriented and is not within the reach of most farmers of the country; and

(d) if so, the result achieved so far and the action taken to popularise the result in the States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation had taken up a scheme under the central sector for setting up of one lakh bio-gas plants in the country during the Fifth plan period.

Under this scheme subsidy @ 25 per cent of the capital cost of the plant was given to the beneficiaries during the years 1974-76 and 20 per cent in subsequent years. However, from the year 1977-78, subsidy rate has been increased to 25 per cent for small plants (size 60 and 100 cft.) set up by small and marginal farmers, 50 per cent for plants set up in hilly and tribal areas and 33 per cent for community bio-gas plants.

So far, about sixty thousand bio-gas plants are reported to have been set up in the country. A statement showing State-wise and year-wise information is attached.

(c) Yes, Sir. Studies about the reduction of the cost of bio-gas plant have been undertaken by specialized institutions under coordinated research programme of the Department of Science and Technology and Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

(d) Drumless low cost bio-gas plant named as 'Janata Bio-gas plant' has recently been developed by the State Planning Institute, Uttar Pradesh at their Gobar Gas Research Station, Ajitmal (Etawah). Such plants are under field trials in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Adoption of this new design of bio-gas plant will be considered after determining its suitability under different agro-climatic conditions.