

**Estimate of surplus land**

867. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the estimate of the surplus land in each State in mid-fifties in the country; and

(b) the present estimate of the surplus land in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) No official estimate of the ceiling surplus land in the country in the mid-fifties is available. Ceiling laws began to be enacted in the fifties. No estimate was possible as long as the norms of ceiling had not been fixed.

(b) As per figures supplied by the State Governments, the ceiling surplus land estimated to be available under the revised ceiling laws is 68.63 lakh acres.

**Repairing and maintenance of Sun Temple at Konarak**

868. SHRI PRADYUMNA BAL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the famous Sun Temple of Konarak in Orissa which is a national monument of finest architecture and of international attraction is suffering from hazards of weather and heavy top stones are gravitating;

(b) the amount spent so far during the last three years on the repairs and maintenance of this temple;

(c) whether a memorandum was submitted to him when he visited the place last time and the President of India to repair and maintain the temple;

(d) the steps taken or being taken to re-build the temple by the Government of its own or by seeking assistance from international agencies like

UNICEF, UNESCO and other such bodies; and

(e) the proposal of the Government for the repairs, maintenance and re-building of this Sun Temple of Konarak?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER):

(a) to (e). The Sun temple of Konarak in Orissa is exposed to the vagaries of weathering agencies and a fragment of a cracked eve-stone of the roof of the assembly hall had fallen down on 1st August, 1978.

The expenditure incurred during the last three years on the repairs and maintenance of the Sun temple is as below:

1975-76	-	Rs. 1,17,680/-
1976-77	-	Rs. 4,47,441.-
1977-78	-	Rs. 2,79,206,

In addition to the figures mentioned above, an amount of Rs. 7,73,551/- has been spent upto March, 1977, on flood-lighting the temple. A Memorandum addressed to the President of India was submitted to me when I last visited Konarak in January this year in which among other items there was a request for reconstruction of the main temple which had fallen in the unknown past. As per internationally accepted principles of archaeological preservation, no whole scllere-building of an ancient monument is taken up. As such no action is being taken in this regard. However, such of the fallen architectural pieces, recovered from the debris, of which the locations can be determined with a measure of certainty, will be refixed to their original places. The old repairs by PWD in ashlar masonry will be gradually replaced with plain moulded pieces to maintain the general architectural disposition of the temple.

Various steps of chemical treatment for preservation of stones and routine structural repairs, as are being executed currently, will be continued. The

fallen piece of the stone from the roof is being restored to its original position. The area within the temple compound is being developed in an informal garden to improve the surrounding's. Besides landscaping is also proposed to be undertaken outside the temple compound when the land asked for from the State Government is handed over to the Survey.

A Committee of experts consisting of archaeological chemist, archaeological engineer, geologist, materiologist, botanist and bio-chemist has been set up to examine the problems of preservation and recommend remedial measures. In its first meeting held on the 7th November, 1978 the Committee has recommended certain data to be collected and experiments to be conducted on stones with resins available in the market. Further preservative measures will be taken as per the recommendations of the Committee. UNESCO has also been approached to give expert advice on preservation of the temple.

**Fixation of support price of Tobacco, Onions and Patatoes by Agricultural Prices Commission**

869. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the Agricultural Prices Commission to fix support price of tobacco, onions and potatoes;

(b) whether the Commerce Ministry has made any suggestions in this regard; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The Agricultural Prices Commission are required to make recommendations on

support prices for various Commodities. At the request of the Government the Commission have submitted reports on the minimum support prices for tobacco, onions and potatoes. Besides recommending such prices, A.P.C. have also suggested various measures of short-term and long-term nature with regard to marketing, grading, processing, etc.

(b) Department of Commerce had made the following suggestions to the A.P.C.:—

(i) APC may, in consultation with Chairman, Tobacco Board recommend for Government consideration the minimum prices at which Virginia Tobacco of different grades should be purchased by a Public Sector Agency.

(ii) In addition to farm grades, APC may work out the prices of cured tobacco in various agmarked grades. Later, it was suggested to APC that they may recommend support price for VFC Tobacco in farm grades and corresponding agmarked grades to enable STC to make purchases.

(c) These recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

**Extension of terms of reference of Agricultural Prices Commission**

870. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM:

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI:

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

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to extend the terms of reference of the Agricultural Prices Commission to enable it to have a say in the fixation of prices of agricultural inputs; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?