

agriculturists by the seed merchants; and

(b) whether Government propose to enact a law or adopt suitable amendments in the existing Seeds Act so that the concerned authorities take immediate and drastic actions against the seed dealers selling sub-standard seeds?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):** (a) and (b). The Seeds Act, 1966 was promulgated by the Government of India to provide for regulating the quality of certain seeds for sale and for matters connected therewith. Seeds merchants are prohibited to carry on the business of seeds unless it conforms to certain standards laid down in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the enforcement of which is the responsibility of the State Governments. Violation attracts penal provision. The State Governments have been repeatedly requested by the Government of India to enforce the provisions of the Act strictly.

The Government of India considers the existing safeguards of the Act adequate and is not in favour of its being made more stringent for the time being in view of the nature of the seeds business.

#### **Abolition of Lease of land in Delhi**

**787. SHRI SATISH PRASAD SINGH:**  
**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:**

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

(a) whether Government are considering to abolish lease system of land in Delhi; and

(b) if so, whether a decision has been taken in this direction?

**THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI):** (a) and (b). The question of conversion of leasehold land in Delhi into free hold in respect of residen-

tial plots has been under consideration of Government for some time. Though the then Minister for Works and Housing, Shri Sikander Bakht, was in favour of conversion of leasehold land into free-hold in Delhi, the then Finance Minister, Shri H. M. Patel expressed himself against it mainly on grounds of financial loss. In December, 1979, the then Minister of Works and Housing Shri Rama Kinker placed the matter before the Cabinet but the Cabinet deferred consideration of the matter. The matter is thus still under consideration of Government and a final decision will be taken at the Cabinet level.

#### **New sugar policy**

**788. SHRI JANARDHANA**  
**POOJARY:**

**SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:**

**SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA**

**BOSE ALLURI:**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of steep rise in the price of Sugar in the market, Government proposes to formulate a new sugar policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):** (a) and (b). Partial control on sugar with dual price mechanism was introduced only on 17th December, 1979 after a review of the sugar policy. A close and continued watch on the price trend, availability and other aspects is being kept by the Government. The Government have also taken a number of steps to ensure availability of sugar in all the States and to keep the prices of free-sale sugar within reasonable limits. Some of the very important measures are, the monitoring of sugar prices on day-to-day basis by the Central and the State Governments, reduction of stock holding limits of the licenced sugar dealers by 50 per