

D.D.A. built houses for Pensioners

7518. SHRI R. L. P. VERMA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme of D.D.A. for allotment of built houses to Government pensioners;

(b) if so, what is the present position;

(c) whether a pensioner can even now apply for the houses; and

(d) if so, what is the procedure?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Plan for development of Agriculture and fisheries in Sunderbans in West Bengal

7519. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any long-term or short term plan has been formulated for the development of agriculture and fisheries in the most backward area of Sunderbans in West Bengal;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for the continued neglect of this area rich in forest, agriculture and fisheries potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) The question does not arise.

Statement**Plan for Development of Agriculture and Fisheries in Sunderbans in West Bengal**

1. A project for Agriculture Development in Sunderbans over a five year period involving a total cost of Rs. 24 crores has been formulated by the Government of West Bengal in collaboration with the Union Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. The project is proposed to be implemented with financial assistance from International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and has already been appraised by a Joint World Bank and IFAD Mission in September, 1979.

2. The project would cover a geographic area of 3.36 lakh hectares in the Sunderbans, selected on the criteria of (i) high concentration of small and marginal farmers or backward classes of community and (ii) lack of irrigation facilities/proper drainage. The cultivated area under the project would be 1.84 lakh hectares. The project would cover 26,500 small and marginal holdings of less than two hectares and besides would benefit 72,000 families of landless agricultural workers by increasing their income levels and providing them supplemental sources of income.

3. The main components of the projects as agreed to by the Appraisal Missions are the following:—

(a) *Drainage and irrigation development*: Construction of sluices and river closures; main and intermediate drains; re-excavation of derelict canals/drains; excavation/re-excavation of tanks; and provision of low lift pumps. These measures are expected to provide drainage on about 72,000 ha. as also rabi season irrigation of about 15,000 ha;

(b) *Crop development*: promoting better Crop husbandry practices and better water control.