

In her own interest India should formulate a coherent 'country training policy' for training overseas students in emerging areas of engineering and technology.

H.R.A. to P & T Employees Serving in Panchayat

4180. SHRI D. S. A. SIVAPRAKASAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees in the P & T Department serving in the Major or minor Panchayat are not given House Rent Allowance; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider their decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) House Rent Allowance is ordinarily admissible to Central Government employees including P&T employees serving at places where the population is 50,000 or more as per the Census held in 1971 and under some other conditions prescribed by the Government. Merely being a Panchayat may not make a place eligible for this allowance unless other conditions are satisfied.

(b) P&T employees are governed by the general orders issued by the Government for all Central Government employees in matter of House Rent Allowance as also other similar allowances. No separate policy is laid down in this regard by the P&T Department.

SC & ST in grip of money lenders

4181. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether any survey has been conducted to assess the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country who could not get rid of from the traditional money lenders?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH

RAO): No, Sir. No specific survey has been made in this regard. However, based on the findings of All India Debt and Investment Survey conducted by the Reserve Bank of India in 1971-72, the Government of India issued guidelines in 1975 to States/ Union Territories to undertake legislative measures to give relief to the rural poor, which would cover Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, by discharging or scaling down of their debts. According to the guidelines, marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans having an annual income upto Rs. 2,400/- were to be given complete discharge of their non-institutional debts and the debts of small farmers were to be scaled down. It was also suggested that considering the relative backwardness of the tribal population amongst the weaker sections, the State Governments may consider adopting more liberal norms, say, doubling the land holding norms suggested in the guidelines for non-tribal categories of debtors in respect of the land held by the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Most of the States have undertaken debt relief legislation on these lines. The next All India Debt and Investment Survey is due in 1981-82.

राजस्थान में हैण्डपम्पों की हानि के बारे में शिकायतें

4182. श्री श्रीखा साई : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दक्षिण राजस्थान के अनुसूचित क्षेत्रों में अकाल राहत कार्य में लगे मजदूरों द्वारा पेय जल के लिए हैण्डपम्प लगाये जाने और उन्हें मजदूरी का भुगतान न किये जाने के बारे में शिकायतें मिली हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में तुरन्त कार्यवाही न किये जाने के क्या कारण है;

(ग) क्या जिन समस्याओं के बारे में शिकायत की गई है वह बैसी ही स्थिति में पडी है;

(घ) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने राज्य सरकार को अनुदेश दिये हैं, यदि नहीं तो उस के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में अनुदेश कब जारी किये गये अथवा किये जाने का विचार है ?