

Areas Programme Agencies Command Area Development Agencies and many other district and block level agencies. Usually, the position in respect of utilisation of funds in respect of a financial year would be available only in the first quarter of the following financial year. While expenditure figures under the Integrated Rural Development Programme in respect of financial year 1979-80 are now available, corresponding figures for the year 1980-81 would be available only in the first quarter of 1981-82.

National Commission for checking pollution

840. SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set up a National Commission to check pollution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Office of Printing, Stationery and Publications

841. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

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

(a) whether due consideration is not given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the matter of departmental promotion and transfer etc. in the office of Printing, Stationery and Publications;

(b) if not, the percentage of SC & ST and other promoted as Accountants, Asstt. Managers (Admn.) and Asstt. Controller (year-wise) since the year 1976 to 1979;

(c) whether the percentage of transferees posted outside Delhi on promotion of the SC/ST employees was more as compared to non-SC/ST staff and if so, the figures (year-wise) since the year 1976 to 1979;

(d) if answer to (c) is in the affirmative the reasons for this discrimination;

(e) officers in the administration responsible for taking such decision; and

(f) action proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Implementation of Land Ceiling Acts

842. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:

Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) what concrete steps have been taken to implement land ceiling Acts in various States after January, 1980;

(b) whether Government have thought to involve agrarian labourers in process of such implementation; and

(c) the guidelines given to States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) The State Governments implement the revised ceiling laws. They have been requested to accelerate the pace of implementation and ensure that the possession of the allottees is not disturbed.

(b) & (c). The implementation of ceiling laws is primarily intended to benefit the landless agricultural labourers. The National Guidelines provide that while distributing ceiling surplus land, priority should be given to landless agricultural workers, particularly those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The setting up of committees of beneficiaries at the village and block levels has been recommended.

Recruitment in Government of India Press, New Delhi

843. SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in July 1979, 23 copy holders and 8 machine attendants were selected in Government of India Press, Minto Road, New Delhi against newly created posts for Hindi Augmentation Scheme;

(b) whether 8 copy-holders and one machine attendant has been taken on duty and the rest have been denied employment after completing all formalities; and

(c) whether Government will review this and employ the left outs?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) & (b). 23 candidates for Copy Holders and 7 candidates for Machine Attendants were kept in the Select List in July 1979 and June, 1979 respectively, on the basis of then existing and expected vacancies. On the basis of actual vacancies however, only 8 candidates could be appointed as Copy Holders and one as Machine Attendant. The other candidates could not, therefore, be appointed.

(c) Does not arise.

Increase in Prices of Consumer Goods

844. SHRI R. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of consumer goods like sugar, edible

oil, pulses etc. have increased recently and particularly during the last two months;

(b) if so, the prices during April-May, 1979 and April-May this year; and

(c) the steps taken to bring down the prices?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) While there was increase in the prices of sugar, vanaspati and indigenous edible oils, the prices of imported edible oils and pulses remained steady during the last two months.

(b) Three statements showing the average retail prices of sugar, edible oils and pulses at imported centres during April—May, 1979 and April—May, 1980 are attached (Statement I, II & III).

(c) The Government has taken a series of measures to bring down the prices of consumer goods. These are enumerated below:
Sugar

1. Reduction in stock holding limits of recognised dealers;

2. Strict enforcement of stock holding limits and intensified de-boarding operations through the State Government authorities;

3. Restriction on sale of sugar by one wholesaler to another where the transaction is not accompanied by physical delivery of stocks;

4. Restriction on recognised dealers for turnover of stocks within 10 days period;

5. Monitoring of information relating to sale and despatch of free sale sugar by making it obligatory for sugar mills to furnish particulars of weekly sales and despatches to the concerned State Government authorities;