

Plans for employment of landless poor in rural areas

862. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering plans to provide more employment in rural areas, particularly to the landless poor; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Integrated Rural Development (IRD) programme is being implemented with the main objective of generating additional employment and raising the income level of the identified target groups, which along with others include the landless poor.

The programme is now under implementation in 2,000 blocks in the SFDA/DPAP/CAD areas and 600 blocks outside the areas of these programmes. The programme is proposed to be extended to all the over 5,000 blocks.

The National Scheme of Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) has been initiated with effect from 15th August, 1979 with the principal objective of opening new opportunities, mainly to those without land in the rural areas. The main thrust of the scheme is on equipping rural youth with necessary skills and technology to enable them to seek self-employment. It is proposed to train about 2 lakh rural youth every year in various skills, both in IRD and non-IRD areas.

The Food for Work Programme has been started with a view to create additional employment opportunities, particularly for the landless poor. The programme is being made a permanent feature with a view to assuring regular employment to the rural people including the landless poor.

Gujral Committee on Urdu

863. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Gujral Committee on Promotion of Urdu have been considered by Government;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the steps being taken to secure implementation of the recommendations;

(d) if the recommendations are still under consideration, what steps have been taken to expedite decision and when Government's reaction to the recommendations are likely to be formulated; and

(e) the reasons for delay in publishing the report and when the report is likely to be published?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (e). Since many of the recommendations would have to be implemented by the States, copies of the Gujral Committee Report have been supplied to the State Governments and they have been requested to examine the various recommendations. As the recommendations cover a wide range, most State Governments have asked for extension of time to examine and communicate their views. In so far as this Ministry is concerned, a Committee was constituted to consider those recommendations of the Gujral Committee Report which can be implemented by the Ministry. The Committee has finalised its report which is under examination. The Gujral Committee Report was laid on the table of both the Houses of the Parliament on 21st February 1979 and copies are available in the Parliament Library.