

(c) steps so far taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Production of Oilseeds and Pulses

927. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete steps which have so far been taken to increase the production of oilseeds and pulses;

(b) the demand and supply from indigenous sources at present of these items; and

(c) when Government propose to stop import of edible oil?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH FAO): (a) The following steps have been taken to increase the production of oilseeds and pulses:

- (i) Under separate centrally sponsored schemes for pulses and oilseeds, an intensive programme is under implementation in 56 districts for pulses and 90 districts for oilseeds. Among other things, these schemes aim at demonstrations on farmers fields, strengthening of seed production arrangements, expansion of plant protection measures, production of rhizobium culture and training for farmers and extension workers;
- (ii) In addition, States are undertaking pulses and oilseeds development programmes from their own funds;
- (iii) Increasing the area under short duration varieties of pulses

and oilseeds through catch cropping and inter-cropping;

(iv) Intensification of research efforts.

(b). Estimates of demand and supply of pulses and oilseeds from indigenous sources at present are not yet available.

(c) Vigorous efforts are being made to increase the production of oilseeds in the country. The decision to stop import of edible oils can be taken only when the gap between demand and supply is bridged.

Temporary Telephone Connection in Delhi

928. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many temporary telephone connections exist at present in Delhi and minimum as well as maximum period for which such connections exist;

(b) whether Government have proposed to make all such temporary connections into permanent lines beyond certain period of its existence; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to consider such a proposal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) Total number of temporary telephone connections working in Delhi Telephones is 2112. The minimum and maximum period for such connections is 3 months and 9 years 4 months.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Persons working in the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction

929. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of personnel working in the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction from the date of its formation; and

(b) the programmes that have been formulated so far by this Department?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) The details of personnel working in the Ministry are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-900/80].

(b) A list of schemes being implemented by the Ministry during 1980-81 is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-900/80].

Rural Banks for Small and Marginal Farmers

930. SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to open more rural banks in order to extend financial assistance to small and marginal farmers and artisans; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ten Regional Rural Banks, (five in Uttar Pradesh, three in Bihar and one each in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa) have been set up since January, 1980 bringing the total number of such banks to seventy covering 122 districts.

Provision has been made to set up another eleven banks during the current financial years.

Drinking Water in Villages

931. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey of World Health Organisation has revealed that 14.5 crores of people in 2,05,000 villages do not have safe drinking water; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for ensuring minimum portable water supply to these villages?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) A survey was conducted in 1972 at the instance of the Government of India which revealed that there were about 1.53 lakh 'problem' villages [i.e. villages with no source of water within a distance of 1.6 km or a depth of 15 metres, or the available water is unfit for consumption] out of a total of 5.76 lakh villages in the country. The States thereafter have from time to time been intimating that the number of 'problem' villages are much more. It is estimated that as on 1-4-1980 the number of such villages still to be provided with protected drinking water would be about 2 lakhs with a population of approximately 12.25 crores.

(b) Coverage of all the remaining problem villages in contemplated within the period 1980-85 with the resources of the State and Central Governments.

Lifting of West Bengal's Quota Levy Suugar

932. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Bengal quota of levy sugar has to be lifted from mills in Maharashtra;