

Funds for Slum Clearance Projects in the Metropolitan City of Delhi

1683. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a scheme and provide adequate funds for slum clearance projects in Delhi;

(b) whether the bottlenecks in the speedy implementation of the scheme have been identified; and

(c) what immediate steps are proposed to be taken to improve physical environments and provide essential services in the sprawling slums in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c). There is no proposal to launch a new scheme for slum clearance projects in Delhi. However, under the existing scheme of Environmental Improvement Slum Areas, it is proposed to provide necessary amenities in the slum areas of Delhi.

Air pollution in Delhi

1684. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air pollution has increased tremendously in Delhi due to various factors; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to safeguard the health of citizens?

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

(b) Apart from the Government of India considering a legislative proposal to provide for the Prevention and

Control of air pollution in the country as a whole, the Coordination Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Lt. Governor, Delhi periodically reviews the measures recommended for the prevention and control of air pollution in Delhi. The various measures taken include:—

(i) Replacement of Mechanical Precipitator by Electrostatic Precipitator in respect of Unit No. 1 has been completed and similar work in respect of the remaining units is in progress.

(ii) DTC buses emitting excessive smoke are not permitted to outshed.

(iii) State Transport buses emitting excessive smoke are prosecuted and the Transport authorities of neighbouring States have been requested to deploy only those vehicles which do not emit excessive smoke.

(iv) The industrial units have been asked to increase the height of chimneys and to provide devices for the control of excessive smoke etc. in addition to taking penal action against the owners of furnances. Smoke Nuisance Commission has also been set up by the Administration of Delhi under the Delhi Smoke Nuisance Act to combat the problem.

(v) Shifting of polluting industries from non-conforming areas to conforming areas.

Monthly allotment of sugar to West Bengal

1685. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUHDURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the monthly allotments of sugar to West Bengal were highly inequitable; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the position?