

Survey of Slum Dwellers

2356. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey regarding the number of people living in slums and sub-standard conditions in the urban areas in the country, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take for the improvement of slums and for preventing their growth?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The scheme for Environmental Improvement of Urban Areas envisages provision of basic amenities in slum areas which are not ear-marked for clearance for at least 10 years. This Scheme is in the State sector with effect from 1-4-1974, and is operated by the State Governments as part of the Minimum Needs Programme.

Balance between Protective and Productive Forestry

2357. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a new Central Government Agency to direct and organise a co-ordinated action to tackle various aspects of ecology and conservation;

(b) whether Government feel that there should be a proper balance between 'protective' and 'productive' forestry; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH

RAO): (a) A high-powered-committee under the chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission has been set up by the Department of Science and Technology in February, 1980 for examining this whole matter.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The National Forest Policy adopted in 1952 and still in force lays down that there should be a proper balance between 'protection' and 'production' forestry. However, revision of the Forestry Policy is presently under consideration of Government with a view to derive the maximum goods and services on a sustained basis from the forest resources consistent with the ecological and environmental consideration.

Acquisition and Distribution of Surplus Land

2358. SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to National Sample Survey of India, 89 million acres of land are held and owned by 4 per cent House-holds in the country;

(b) whether on a fixed ceiling of 30 acres, 53 million acres of land may be declared surplus in the country; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take effective steps to acquire surplus land from the land-owners?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) According to 26th round of the National Sample Survey of India, 2.7 per cent of the household ownership holdings above 20 acres in covered 92.7 million acres in 1971-72. However, according to the Agricultural Census, conducted in 1976-77, 3 per cent of large operational holdings (25 acres and above) covered 101.8 million acres.