

**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.

(b) It might not be appropriate to estimate surplus land on the basis of N.S.S. data, since ceiling is determined under the law which takes factors like quality of land and the size of the family into account. The ceiling refers to 'standard' acre/hectare and a standard acre/hectare would be more than an ordinary acre/hectare where the quality of land is inferior. Moreover, the ceiling laws permit an excess (subject to an upper limit) over the ceiling for larger families, and also permit in some cases a separate unit to a major son. This will reduce the surplus, since some of the surplus I will come to be held by the family and major sons.

According to the information furnished by the State Governments, the area likely to be declared surplus is estimated at 51.42 lakh acres.

(c) 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.

#### Supply of Sugar to States

2359. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the State Government cannot make allotment of sugar to the public distribution centres due to insufficient supply of the same from the Centre; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to supply sugar to State Governments according to their claim?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) and (b). With the coming into operation of partial control on sugar with effect from 17-12-1979, the State-wise monthly levy sugar quotas have been fixed on the basis of their quotas obtaining during partial control immediately prior to decontrol of

sugar on 16-8-1978. In view of sharp decline in sugar production in 1979-80 season and consequent limited availability of levy sugar, it has not been possible to increase the quota of any State.

While 17 States/Union Territories are themselves arranging the lifting of allotted sugar from the factories, in the case of remaining 14 States/Union Territories the lifting of sugar from factories is arranged by the Food Corporation of India. On account of operational difficulties including transport bottlenecks experienced immediately after the reimposition of partial control on sugar, the lifting of sugar from the factories was not satisfactory in the initial stages. These difficulties were subsequently overcome and there has been considerable improvement in the supply of levy sugar. Out of total levy sugar allocation of 14.77 lakh tonnes from mid-December, 1979 to May, 1980, the levy sugar moved upto the end of May 1980 was of the order of 13.7 lakh tonnes leaving a balance of 1.07 lakh tonnes only to be moved further. Of these, 89,000 tonnes remained to be lifted by the Food Corporation of India and 18,000 tonnes by the direct allottee States. The validity period of levy allotment orders is also extended from time to time to enable the completion of lifting of the entire allotted quantities from the factories and the supply thereof to various State Governments.

#### Beggars Problem

2360. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the beggar nuisance particularly near places of worship, bus stands, busy city areas, railway carriage etc. is on the increase;

(b) whether Government are also aware that there are large number of leper beggars and others who have communicable diseases causing havoc; and