

(ii) ASANSOL;

Asansol Trunk Automatic Exchange at present connected to CALCUTTA TAX is being provided with direct lines to DELHI TAX by 31.3.1981.

Towns in Gujarat connected with Delhi by S.T.D.

3601. SHRI DAULATSINGH JADEJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of towns and cities connected by STD with Delhi in Gujarat presently; and

(b) the plans for extension of STD service between Delhi and other towns in Gujarat in 1981, 1982 and 1983?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) The number of towns and cities in Gujarat at present connected by STD with Delhi are three.

(b) STD service between Delhi and three more towns of Gujarat is planned to be provided in 1981, 1982 and 1983.

Ecological Damage

3602. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that severe ecological damage is being caused in South as a result of large scale extraction of sand from the seashore by private parties and consequent soil erosion;

(b) whether Government will take steps to stop this sand extractions forthwith; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha as soon as possible.

Promotion of Time Keepers and Assistant Time Keepers in Delhi Milk Scheme

3603. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Time Keepers and Assistant Time Keepers working at present in Delhi Milk Scheme;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the Time Keepers have been working as Time Keepers for the last 19 years; and

(c) if so what are the avenues of their promotions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):

(a) to (c). There are 6 Time Keepers and 7 Assistant Time Keepers on the strength of Delhi Milk Scheme. One Time Keeper has been working in the said post for nearly 19 years. There are no promotional posts from that of Time Keeper.

Housing or Backward Classes

3604. SHRI N. SOUNDARAJAN: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allotted for housing for persons from backward classes and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes during the last three years;

(b) the present position of village housing projects for backward and SC/ST citizens;

(c) the present position and future programmes for granting land for housing to landless agriculture workers in rural areas; and

(d) the concrete efforts made for housing persons from low income groups?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) Housing is a

State subject and practically all the social housing schemes are in the State sector. Central financial assistance for all State Sector programmes, including 'Housing', is given to the State Governments in the form of 'block loans' and 'block grants'. The State Governments are free to determine their priorities.

(b) As per reports received from the State Governments, as on 31-12-1980, about 70,014 houses had been constructed under Village Housing Projects Scheme.

(c) As per reports received from the State Governments, about 82.77 lakhs families had been provided house-sites upto 31-12-80 under the scheme for provision of house-sites-cum-subsidy for house construction for rural landless labour. The Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85) provides for allotment of house-sites to 68 lakh families and financial assistance for house construction to 36 lakh families at a total cost of Rs. 353.50 crores under the scheme during the Sixth Plan period.

(d) The Sixth Five-Year Plan document lays stress on intensification of efforts for Lower Income Group Housing and it is envisaged that the State Governments will take action on these lines.

Scheme to write off loan by States

3605. SHRI B. K. NAIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) schemes introduced by some State Governments to write off loan due from agriculturists;

(b) amount of similar loans outstanding in other States;

(c) whether he proposes to issue any guidelines for co-ordinating such schemes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):
(a) As indicated in the answer to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2646 on 9th March, 1981 the State Governments of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have decided to write off certain portions of institutional loans in their States due from small farmers in their States. Full details of the decisions to write-off loans in respect of other States are not available.

(b) State-wise detailed of the loans advanced by Cooperatives and outstanding as on 30th June, 1978 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) State-wise details of the loans India are of the firm view that any measure involving blanket write off of institutional loans tends to vitiate the climate for recovery encourage wilful default and undermine the viability of credit institutions. There are already existing mechanisms for giving relief by way of conversions or re-scheduling of institutional loans as well as write-off of part of the dues of the weaker sections when the liability is beyond their repaying capacity, in special circumstances. The policy of the Government of India, as indicated in the frame-work for the Sixth Plan and the Sixth Five Year Plan approved by the National Development Council in August, 1980 and February, 1981 respectively. The Reserve Bank of India had already issued guidelines to all State Governments indicating the various relief measures that are possible of repaying capacity of the borrowers are affected due to natural calamities.