

The laws providing for recording of tenants do not distinguish tenants on the basis of their caste or community and entitle all tenants to the stipulated benefits.

Failure of (Punjab) Government to Procure Paddy

160. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge quantities of paddy got rotten in Punjab due to the failure of the Government to purchase them from the growers; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure the purchase of the marketable surplus of paddy by the Government at remunerative price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir. During the Kharif season, 1980-81, out of total arrivals of 4383 thousand tonnes of paddy in Punjab, the Government agencies purchased 2577 thousand tonnes and the balance 1806 thousand tonnes by the millers.

(b) Question does not arise.

Water Scarcity in Rajasthan

161. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there exists a grave menace of water scarcity in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether Government have since evaluated the magnitude of the problem and a comprehensive Plan formulated to fight this menace; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) to (c). In Rajasthan, out of 33,262 populated villages, 24,037 villages have been identified as "problem" villages where the problem of safe drinking water is relatively more acute. Of the 24037 problem villages, 8734 villages have been provided with potable water facilities upto March 1981. 200 towns of the State are provided with piped water supply. An outlay of Rs. 183 54 crores has been provided for rural and urban water supply in the Sixth Five Year Plan in the State Sector. In addition, grants under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme will be given to the State Government to provide safe drinking water to the problem villages to supplement the State resources. During the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-91) the aim is to provide drinking water supply to the maximum possible population in the urban and rural areas. The programmes for the Decade are being drawn up and the requirement of financial and other resources is being assessed.

Recasting of Rural Development Plan

162. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to recast the Rural Development Plan in order to further widen the potential for rural employment;

(b) if so, the details of the different aspects of the proposals; and

(c) the steps taken to give them concrete shape?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) to (c) There are no specific proposals before the Central Government to