

Implementation of land Ceiling Act

2552. SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are inclined to implement legislation and decisions on land ceiling, distribution of surplus lands and completion of land records by removing administrative and legal obstacles; and

(b) if so, why an amendment to West Bengal Land Reforms Act intended to facilitate the seizure of concealed lands which was passed by the State Assembly has been lying with the Union Government for several months for President's assent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The comments of the Government of India on the West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 1981 were forwarded to the West Bengal Government on 1-4-1982. The views of the State Government on those comments are still awaited.

Import of Foot and Mouth disease vaccine from UK

2553. SHRI L. S. TUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dairy Board have imported Foot and Mouth diseases vaccine from U.K.

(b) whether it is also a fact that Dairy Board have decided without any clearance and project site, starting of Disease free Zones, involving diversion of Rs. 30 crores of World Bank loan for free supply of vaccine in Southern States despite the fact that worst affected areas are in the north;

(c) whether Government are aware that this is to cover the failure of Foot and Mouth Diseases Vaccine Project

as each dose is likely to cost a lot more than what has been put out in the project calculations; and

(d) whether Government will order an inquiry in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Dairy Development Board has imported Foot & Mouth Disease Vaccine from United Kingdom for use in the Government approved Pilot Vaccination Programme in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu on the basis of a valid customs clearance permit.

(b) It is Government's endeavour to progressively eliminate Foot & Mouth Disease which causes an annual loss of over Rs. 400 crores by way of loss in milk production and draft power. The Government accordingly approved under Operation Flood II, the setting up of a Foot & Mouth Disease Vaccine Plant near Hyderabad and a Foot & Mouth Disease Pilot Vaccination Programme to create disease free zone in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu. Since Foot & Mouth disease is endemic, creating Foot & Mouth disease free zone as a part of progressive disease elimination requires selection of a project area where quarantine is possible by creating a quarantine belt. Since the southern most part of India is surrounded on three sides by sea, the natural barricade leaves only one side where effective quarantine control would be required to create a disease free zone. Further, since cattle, indigenous as well as cross breeds are most affected by Foot & Mouth Disease, predominantly cow areas have been chosen for creation of a disease free zone. The project however, could be extended to other States who are anxious to bring the disease under control in contiguous districts within their respective States and where the co-operative infrastructure is well established. This project for creation of a disease free zone is proposed to be financed out of funds

to be generated by the Indian Dairy Corporation through sale of gift commodities received from the European Economic Community under Operation Flood II project and not by diverting World Bank Loan.

(c) It is premature to hasten to the conclusion that the cost per dose of Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine is likely to be a lot more than what was given in the Project Report. The Feasibility Report for the Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Plant was prepared in 1978 and taking into account general inflation since then, there is likelihood of a marginal increase in the cost. The cost indicated in the Feasibility Report is based on the maximum level of production; and as such, the cost of production until the maximum capacity is reached, is expected to be higher.

(d) No, Sir.

Barrange on Brahmaputra at Jogighopra

2554. SHRI SATYASADHAN CHARABORTY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to construct a barrange on the Brahmaputra at Jogighopra; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Under the Indo-Bangladesh Agreement of November, 1977, the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission was required to carry out investigation and study of schemes for the augmentation of the dry season flows of the Ganga proposed by either Government and make recommendations to their Governments within a period of three years.

In this context, the Government of India proposed the construction of barrange on the Brahmaputra at Jogighopra and a 320 KM long Brahmaputra-Ganga Link Canal of which the middle one-third will be in Bangladesh, supplemented by three storage reservoirs on the Brahmaputra-Barak River System.

The investigations for the Brahmaputra Barage and Link Canal in India are presently going on.

Proposals from States for diversion of forest land for non-forest use

2555. SHRI RAMJIBHAI MAVANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many proposals received from various States for diversion of forest land for non-forest use, have been cleared during last three years and when and how the remaining will be cleared;

(b) how many lakh hectares of valuable forest land has been destroyed by reckless felling of trees during the last three years in Gujarat and other States and the details thereof; and

(c) what action is being taken to preserve forest land in Gujarat and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Between 25-10-1980, when the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 came into force, and 30-6-1982, 197 proposals were received from the States and Union Territories, Seeking the prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. Of these, 171 cases have already been disposed of. The remaining 26 cases are also being processed for expeditious disposal.

(b) and (c) Felling of trees in the forest areas is the responsibility of the Forest Departments in the States, who carry out such operation in accordance with regular working plans. Cases of illicit felling in the forest areas are covered by the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, which the State Governments are fully competent to enforce. In Gujarat, 14843 cases of illicit fellings have been detected in the last three years. Action on similar lines is being taken in other States to check illicit felling and to protect the forests. In addition, the Central Gov-