

(b) Central assistance for all State sector programmes (including Housing and Slum Clearance) is given to State Governments in the shape of Block Loans and Block Grants, without its being tied to any specific scheme or head of development. The State Governments have complete freedom to determine the allocations for various State sector programmes (as also the areas/cities of the State where they should be utilised) in the light of their own requirements and priorities. The Corporation was accordingly advised to approach the Government of the Uttar Pradesh in the matter.

It was also suggested to the Corporation that they could formulate specific projects (of a viable character) for Housing and slum Clearance; and approach the Housing and Urban Development Corporation through the State Government for loan assistance for the execution of the projects. The U. P. Government has also been asked to forward slum improvement schemes for Kanpur for which separate allocation will be made.

#### Admission in Colleges and Universities in West Bengal

2089. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether admission of students in West Bengal Colleges and Universities has become very difficult for want of adequate seats; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the requests of the students for admission ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (PROF. D.P. YADAVA) : (a) According to the West Bengal Government, considering the total intake capacity of different colleges in the State, there should not normally be any problem for admission to colleges provided the admission is uniformly spread over and distributed. However, difficulties arise every year because of the tendency on the part of a large number of students to see admission

to particular institutions or courses of their choice. The State Government is not aware of the great difficulties faced by the students in the matter of admission to the Universities.

(b) The State Government is seized of the problem and has, in consideration of the local demands, agreed to the establishment of private degree colleges and opening of additional shifts in Government and Government sponsored colleges, where necessary. The Government has also extended within the available funds, financial assistance to the Universities to increase the intake capacity in different courses and to creation of additional teaching posts.

#### Procurement of foodgrains

2090. SHRI K. BALATHANDAYUTHAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the problem of foodgrains procurement by the States has been reviewed recently in Delhi in a Conference of the Food Ministers from States; and

(b) if so, the decisions taken at the Conference ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

#### Statement

A summary of the decisions taken in the Conference of Food Ministers of State held on 19.8.1971 is as under ;—

1. It was agreed that the steps taken so far in regard to procurement of foodgrains will not only have to be maintained but also strengthened in future to achieve the twin objectives of payment of a remunerative price to the cultivator and to maintain supplies of foodgrains through public distribution system.