

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): (a) No formal proposal has been received from the Government of Sikkim for the establishment of a plant protection organisation in that State. However it is felt that with the introduction of new high yielding varieties of crops in the State it would be necessary to build up an infrastructure for plant protection falling which there would be an increase in the incidence of pests and diseases. As the State Government is not equipped to do this on its own the question of establishing a Central Plant Protection Station in Sikkim is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(b) The Government of Sikkim is considering the enactment of suitable legislation for soil and water conservation. Necessary assistance in this regard is being rendered to it by the Government of India.

Illiteracy in Sikkim

1988. **SHRI S. K. RAJ:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey regarding the illiteracy in the State of Sikkim; and

(b) if so, the number of illiterate people and whether any scheme has been launched by Government to educate illiterate adults in the State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Along with 1971 Census of India, the then Government of Sikkim had conducted in April, 1971, a population Census of the State with the technical assistance of the Director of Census Operations, West Bengal, which inter alia collected information about illiteracy.

(b) According to 1971 population Census conducted by the then Government of Sikkim, total number of illiterates in the State in different age-groups were as shown below:—

Age-group	Total population	Illiterates
5—9	27,663	25,475
10—14	27,428	23,888
15—19	21,204	16,223
20—24	18,976	12,681
25—34	36,199	27,362
35+	52,583	41,196

All ages 2,09,843 172,613

The Government of India launched in 1975-76 two major programmes in the State, viz., non-formal education for the youth in the age-group 15—25 and functional literacy for adult women. For both of these programmes, financial assistance is being provided by the Government of India and they are being implemented through the State Government.

Slum clearance scheme in Tamil Nadu

1989. **SHRI MURASOLI MARAN:** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu are thinking in terms of abandoning Slum Clearance Scheme providing multi-storied buildings for slum-dwellers and taking up Slum Improvement Schemes; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.