

final decision has been taken in the matter.

Arrears of Sales Tax and Agricultural Income Tax in Kerala

1109. Shri A. V. Raghavan:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1239 on the 4th August, 1966 and state:

(a) the arrears of Sales Tax and Agricultural Income Tax collected in Kerala as a result of the intensive drive to collect 50 per cent of the collectable arrears by August, 1966;

(b) whether the matter has since been reviewed by the Government of Kerala; and

(c) the amounts written off during this period?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) Rs. 57,20,853.52 under Sales Tax and Rs. 21,13,805.56 under Agricultural Income Tax have been collected to the end of the August 1966.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Rs. 35,200.48 under Sales Tax only.

Kerala Land Reforms Act

1110. Shri A. V. Raghavan:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Planning and Social Welfare be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2628 on the 18th August, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala have since finalised the amendments proposed to be carried out to the Kerala Land Reforms Act, 1963;

(b) if so, the nature of amendments proposed to be made; and

(c) the progress made to put a complete end to the landlord—tenant nexus and convert the tenants into full owners?

The Minister of Planning and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) and (b). With a view to preventing evictions and surrenders, amendments to the Kerala Land Reforms Act have been incorporated in the Kerala Prevention of Eviction Bill which is being enacted as President's Act. Further proposals of the amendments of the Kerala Land Reforms Act are under consideration.

(c) The provisions entitling tenants to purchase ownership rights on payment of compensation have been enforced. 1703 applications from tenants for voluntary purchase of ownership had been made up to end of August, 1966.

Public Control on Urban Lands and Properties

1111. Shri A. V. Raghavan:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the Constitution to prevent private rights of sale in respect of urban lands and properties so as to bring them under public control; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) and (b). There has been a steep rise in the values of urban lands in the past ten years. This problem has been examined in the draft Fourth Five Year Plan and certain suggestions made to resolve it. These suggestions have, however, not yet been examined.