

(b) There is no such Scheme under consideration. The Iron Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund has set up one Holiday Home for Iron Ore Mine Workers in Orissa at Puri and another one is proposed to be set up in Goa but there is no such general scheme under consideration.

Empowering Labour Inspectors to realise dues of workers from Employees

2882. SHRIMATI ILA PAL
CHOUDHURI :
SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA :
SHRI CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to give powers to Labour Inspectors to realise the dues of workers from their employers and thus avoid the necessity for the workers to go to Court of Law to realise their dues is under consideration ;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal ; and

(c) when and how it is to be enforced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) to (c). There is a proposal under examination to amend the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, to empower "Inspectors" to entertain and decide claims and to issue directions for payment.

Decline in Production Capacity of Land

2883. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH
SHASTRI :
SHRI LOBO PRABHU :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the survey done by the Rural Agricultural Institute, Bichpuri, the production capacity of the land in our country has gone down by ten per cent since the beginning of the present century ;

(b) what are the other conclusions of this survey ; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (c). In an article published in the Agra University Research Journal 10 years ago (in January, 1959) a scholar of the Rural Institute, Bichpuri, Agra, had explained his finding about the decline in the average productivity of land by about 10%. According to him two problems were behind the decline, namely, the problem of drainage and the other increasing deficiency of humous or organic manure in the soil.

The study is not only out of date but is based upon data that is not directly comparable and that has not been subjected to adjustments. The conclusions are not relative to the present situation resulting from the technology of the high yielding varieties and multiple cropping programmes.

The trend according to the index numbers compiled in the Department of Agriculture is towards higher productivity, the index numbers having gone up from base line of 100 in 1949-50 to 130.1 for food-grains, 107.9 for non-foodgrains and 126.6 for all commodities in 1967-68.

Settlement of Refugees from East Pakistan

2884. SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are still 10,000 refugee families from East Pakistan who are awaiting rehabilitation ;

(b) if so, since how long these families have been awaiting rehabilitation ;

(c) the reasons for which they have not been rehabilitated so far ; and

(d) the total number of East Pakistan refugee families settled so far since the year 1964 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) Yes, there are at present 10,419 families awaiting rehabilitation in various relief camps. In addition, there are 4,347 families belonging to permanent liability category residing in these camps.