

Minister paid a visit to West Bengal during the third week of July ;

(b) if so, whether she discussed with the officials there about the concrete steps to be taken to distribute surplus land to the landless in the State ; and

(c) the steps Government have taken on this score after her visit and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The important matters including the land reform measures in West Bengal came up for discussion during the Prime Minister's visit to West Bengal.

(c) Instructions have been issued to the District Officers for expediting determination of surplus land, taking possession of such lands and for their distribution to persons belonging to eligible categories. In accordance with the information received from the State Government some improvement has been made in this direction and in accordance with the latest report 7.52 lakh acres of agricultural land have been declared surplus out of which 5.84 lakh acres have been taken possession of and 2.89 lakh acres have been distributed as against 6.81 lakh acres, 4.66 lakh acres and 2.64 lakh acres respectively as reported earlier. It has also been decided to reorganise land reforms implementation agency with a view to expediting implementation.

The proposals relating to review of the ceiling provisions in the light of the discussions at the first meeting of the Consultative Committee on West Bengal Legislation are being finalised.

Persons Registered with Employment Exchange at Chandigarh

3396. **SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons registered with the Employment Exchange at Chandigarh, for employment ;

(b) how many of them are literate and how many illiterate ; and

(c) the help which has been rendered to them by the Government of the Union Territory ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA) : (a) and (b). The number of job-seekers on the live register of Regional Employment Exchange, Chandigarh as on 30-6-1970 was 11,057 of which 3,833 were educated persons (matriculates and above) and 7,224 were below matric (including illiterates).

(c) The number of applicants placed in employment by the above Exchange during January-June, 1970 was 1824.

Restoration of Land forcibly Acquired by Workers of Political Parties in West Bengal

3397. **SHRI D.N. PATODIA :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government in West Bengal had initiated action to restore land which was forcibly taken by workers of political parties ;

(b) if so, the total area of land that has been restored ;

(c) the political parties in each case who had wrongfully acquired the land ; and

(d) whether any punishment has been given for their wrongful act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) It has been decided by the State Government that a person who genuinely belongs to the eligible category (a bonafide cultivator of the locality holding no land or less than 2 acres of land) and does not violate the interests of licencees to whom the Government had earlier allotted the land, will not be evicted from such land. Possession of such persons in respect of the land occupied upto 2 acres of land