

[English]

**Land under Jute and Mesta
Cultivation**

5769. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether area under jute and mesta cultivation has gradually decreased during the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to check such decline in area of jute and mesta cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The Area under jute and Mesta during the last 10 years i.e. 1982-83 to 1991-92 has been established around 10.5 lakh hectares with marginal fluctuations from year to year, depending upon the rainfall and whether conditions. On long term time trend basis i.e. 1967-68 to 1990-91 the growth rate of area under jute and mesta was observed as (-) 0.01 per cent per annum showing only marginal decrease in area.

(c) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Special Jute Development Programme (SJDP), initiated in 1987-88, is being implemented in 50 selected districts of 8 major jute/mesta growing States of West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Assam, Tripura Meghalaya, Utter Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

Financial Assistance to SC/ST Entrepreneurs by NSFDC

5770. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the Criteria for providing financial assistance to the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs by the National Scheduled Castes and Tribes Finance Development Corporation (NSFDC);

(b) the allocation proposed to be made by the NSFDC for small/medium/major projects during Eighth Plan, project-wise;

(c) whether any International financial institutions such as World Bank, Asian Development Bank etc. have also been approached by the Union Government to finance NSFDC; and

(d) if so, the details there of and the reaction of these institutions thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a). The criteria prescribed by National scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) for providing financial assistance to the SC/ST entrepreneurs are given below:-

- i) The annual family income of the beneficiary should not exceed twice the poverty line.
- ii) The scheme must be technically feasible and economically viable and capable of generating adequate income on sustained basis.

(b) Allocations for Eighth Plan have not yet been finalised.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

World Bank Aid to Haryana

5771. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of aid proposed to be sanctioned by the World Bank for a comprehensive agriculture development in Haryana;

(b) the area likely to be benefited by the assistance;

(c) whether any pre-condition has been laid by the World Bank in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) when the final pre-appraisal meeting are likely to be held to finalise this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There is no World Bank funded comprehensive agricultural development project in the offing at present in Haryana.

(b) to (e). Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Voluntary Organisations

5772. SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of unrecognised voluntary organisations functioning in the country which are engaged in the human welfare;

(b) the details of applications received so far by the Union Government from such organisations for recognition;

(c) the time by which recognition is likely to be accorded to them; and

(d) the number of new voluntary organisations proposed to be started during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) The Government of India in the Ministry of Welfare does not maintain details unrecognised voluntary organisations functioning in the country.

(b) The Ministry of Welfare does not grant recognition to any voluntary organisations. It extends financial assistance to such voluntary organisations as are registered under the law.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[*English*]

Development of Ladakh

5773. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand for special attention to the developmental problems of Ladakh has come to the notice of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) the present status of setting up of autonomous District Hill Council for Ladakh region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (d).

STATEMENT

In the past, demands for protection of ethnic culture, language, allocation of more funds for better development of the Ladakh region, and for more local representation in