

(i) the steps being taken to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Welfare have launched the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers & their Dependents since 1991-92 which has the following three comments :-

(i) a rapid survey to identify scavengers and their dependents and their aptitude for alternative trades and professions;

(ii) training of scavengers and their dependents; and

(iii) rehabilitation of scavengers through projects with a prescribed funding pattern. Till the end of 1995-96 only about 1.00 lakh and 2.50 lakhs of scavengers have been trained and rehabilitated, respectively. Since the task of rehabilitation could not be completed by the end of VIII plan as originally targetted, the implementation of the Scheme is being extended during the IXth Plan.

The Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment are implementing the Low Cost Sanitation Programme for liberation of Scavengers under which so far 730 schemes have been sanctioned at the total project cost of Rs. 1053.02 crores. Under these schemes 1901972 number of units have been sanctioned for conversion and 1367183 units have been sanctioned for construction in the process liberating 108184 scavengers. Out of these so far 609765 number of units have been completed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The necessary details in this regard are being obtained and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) (i) slow generation of schemes by the State/ Local Bodies.

(ii) Lack of awareness amongst the people about the benefits of LCS Programme.

(iii) Unwillingness among the beneficiaries to bear the beneficiary contribution and subsequent repayment of loan.

(iv) Lack of proper monitoring system for effective implementation of programme at the State level.

(g) No instance of funds allocated for rehabilitation being utilised on foreign tours has been observed on so far, but some States have utilized the funds on non-viable projects.

(h) Many States have treated the average project of Rs. 20000/- as the maximum project cost leading to the preponderance of non-viable projects.

(i) In the modification of guidelines made w.e.f. 1.4.96, it has been provided within the ceiling of Rs. 50,000 cost of project shall be such that the project is viable.

Addition to ST List

4853. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered to include more communities in the Scheduled Tribes list;

(b) if so, the details of such communities;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for inclusion of some more communities in the Scheduled Tribes list;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken on the same?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) About 700 claims have been received for inclusion of communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes of various States and Union Territories.

(c) and (d) The Government of Kerala has recommended inclusion of about 60 communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

(e) No specific time can be indicated.

[Translation]

Decline in the production / cultivation of Pulses

4854. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that for four and half decades the output of pulses have moved up by barely 10 per cent whereas the country's population has jumped three times over these decades;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that acreage under pulses has stagnated at the level of 20 to 22 million hectares throughout these decades;

(c) whether per capita daily availability of pulses has also declined from 69 grams in 1960-61 to less than 37 grams per day at present;