

Title: Need for merger of All India Soil and Land Use Survey (AISLUS) with the Department of Land Resources (DOLR), Ministry of Rural Development.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, the decision of the Planning Commission to close down the All India Soil and Land Use Survey (AISLUS), a subordinate office of the Department of Agriculture and Corporation, Ministry of Agriculture by curtailing the budgetary support for six months period for the last fiscal year, is arbitrary.

Sir, AISLUS has infrastructure worth Rs. 50 crore and has modern equipment and apparatus of several crores of rupees to analyse soil and determine its fertility, moisture and other soil classification. It provides scientific data on soil and land characteristic to the user-agencies.

Sir, I urge upon the Government to see that either this vital Department get enough budgetary support or consider the merger of this organisation to Department of Land Resources (DOLR), Ministry of Rural Development.