

The estimated area under mesta in these districts is about one lakh hectares in 1985-86. The anticipated production is also estimated to have increased from 5.5 lakh bales in 1984-85 to 10 lakh bales in 1985-86. However, the Jute Corporation of India purchased only 1300 bales as against the reported targeted procurement of 1 lakh bales during 1985-86. The Jute Corporation of India is also offering only Rs. 181 to Rs 186 per quintal of fibre whereas private trade offered only Rs. 170. The Jute Corporation of India has opened only 11 purchasing centres so far. The Jute Corporation of India should come forward to purchase at least 75 per cent of produced marketed in Andhra Pradesh by opening more purchase centres. Further, in view of the increasing area under mesta, a processing facility should also be considered by Jute Corporation of India.

- (iii) Need to amend the Urban Land Ceiling Act, 1976 with a view to provide accommodation to the common man

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH (Bombay North) : I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing on the following matter :

The Urban Land Ceiling Act was brought before Parliament in the year 1976 and passed with a view to provide housing facility to the common man at a most reasonable price either by acquiring the land for public purpose or by regulating the construction of houses as per the rules and regulations of the Urban Land Ceiling Act.

During the last about nine years it has had very adverse effects. This prices of land and houses have gone up tremendously and acute shortage of houses in urban area. It has created a number of problems including the creation of slums in metropolitan cities.

I would like to request hon. Minister for Urban Development and Housing

to come forward with suitable amendments to the Urban Development and Housing to come forward with suitable amendments to the Urban Land Ceiling Act, 1976 so that the problems of houses for common man can be solved and the prices of houses can be brought down.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

- (iv) Need to enact comprehensive legislation to enable authorities to take effective action against erring manufacturers of chemical-based consumer goods for not observing safety measures

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : A series of disasters due to gas leakage in urban cities like Bhopal, Bombay and Delhi is posing a serious threat to the life and health of the people living in these cities. On 3rd December, 1984, a potent combination of highly toxic gases principally methyl isocyanate, surged out under the pressure of a runaway chemical reaction from the Union Carbide pesticides plant in Bhopal and killed not less than 2500 people and made one lakh people suffer from varying kinds and degrees of medical disability. Chlorine gas leakage from a storage tank of Ilac Ltd. at Chembur, Bombay which occurred on 30th August, 1985 resulted in killing of one person and hurting more than 120. Massive leak of Oeum from a storage tank at the Shriram Food and Fertilizers plant of Delhi on 4th December, 1985 created considerable panic in the capital and gave rise to complaints of throat irritation, breathlessness and bouts of coughing and killed at least one person. These and such other incidents have highlighted the urgency of introducing comprehensive legislation which would enable the enforcing authorities to take effective action against the management which are not observing safety measures in their plants. I urge upon the Ministry of Labour and Industries to undertake such legislation at the earliest.