

**Antyodaya Programme**

\*91. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to continue with the Antyodaya movement;

(b) if so, allocations proposed for 1980-81 together with its State-wise break-up; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons for discontinuing the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) The Government of India had not adopted the Antyodaya programme at any time and, therefore, the question of continuing is does not arise. However, the Antyodaya approach of selecting the poorest among the poor has been recommended for providing assistance to beneficiaries under the Integrated Rural Development Programme and similar beneficiary-oriented programmes.

(b) and (c). Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

**Forest Policy for Hill Regions in U.P.**

\*92. SHRI T. S. NEGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether floods in hill districts of Uttar Pradesh have proved disastrous to the country;

(b) if so, what special steps are being taken to control these floods; and

(c) whether Government propose to give an ecological turn to the forest policies to save the agricultural economy in the hill regions of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) Floods in hill districts of

U.P. have cause great damage in the plains of U.P., Bihar and West Bengal.

(b) Large scale water and soil conservation measures which include afforestation of barren hill side, development of pastures and fruit gardens and construction of engineering structures to prevent heavy and sudden run-off are being taken in catchment area of rivers in the hill districts of U.P. Planning Commission, Government of India have allocated a sum of Rs. 90 crores (50:50 sharing basis) under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the remaining period of 6th Five Year Plan for treatment of catchment of 18 flood prone rivers of the Indo-Gangetic Basin. The allocation for 1980-81 is Rs. 2 crores.

(c) Large scale afforestation and constructive measures are being taken by Government to reclothe the barren hillsides to prevent land slides and minimise run-off which will go a long way to save the agricultural economy both in hills as well as in plains.

The Government of India has already taken up the revision of national forest policy 1952 and in the proposed draft of the revised forest policy there would be greater emphasis on ecological and environmental considerations.

**L.P. Gas Connections in Delhi**

\*93. SHRI R. L. P. VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of persons registered in Delhi for L.P. gas as on 31st January, 1979; and

(b) by what time the persons on the waiting list in Delhi are likely to be provided gas connections?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) The Indian Oil