

up the implementation of land reforms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). With a view to improve the access of rural poor to land, a Programme of action involving speedier implementation of some land reforms measures is being considered. The items proposed for inclusion in the Programme are:

- (1) conferring ownership rights on landless rural poor in respect of homesteads occupied by them;
- (2) unearthing of farzi land transactions undertaken to evade ceiling laws;
- (3) bringing oral tenants/sharecroppers on record;
- (4) verification of possession in respect of SC/ST allottees of land;
- (5) reservation for women in future allotment of land;
- (6) measures for expeditions distribution of surplus ceiling land at present locked in litigation.

Land being a State subject, the Programme will be implemented in consultation with State Governments.

Setting up of Gas-Based Fertilizer Projects

*50. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
DR. SUDHIR ROY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in the setting up of two gas-based fertilizer projects in the country;

(b) whether the contractor has demanded escalation of fees because of the delay in setting up these projects;

(c) if so, the details of additional amount demanded; and

(d) the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) The delay in the setting up of the gas-based fertilizer project in Rajasthan has been mainly due to the shifting of the original site at Sawai Madhopur to a new location at Gadepan in Kota District in order to conform to environmental guidelines. In the case of the Babrala project, the delay was caused by the promoters' proposals to change the product pattern and to merge M/s. Tata Fertilizers Ltd. with the parent company to improve the financial viability of the project.

(b) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Food Processing Industry in Pithoragarh District of Uttar Pradesh

*51. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a food processing industry in Pithoragarh district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the industry proposed to be set up in that district?