

**Setting up of a Betel Development Board**

\*643. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set up a Betel Development Board ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Betel cultivation is on a very limited scale and it does not need a separate Board at present.

**Workers Suffering from Asbestosis in Asbestos Factories**

\*644. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a majority of workers working in Asbestos Factories are suffering from acute asbestosis ;

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to protect the workers from contracting diseases ; and

(c) the number of workers reported to have died from this disease since 1982 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) :

(a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No such report has come to the notice of the Government.

**Statement**

As per information furnished by the State Governments and Administrations of Union Territories, there are in all 74 factories manufacturing asbestos products and they employ 10,567 workers. Incidence of asbestosis among some workers have been reported. Studies conducted by the Organisation of the Directorate General

of Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes in the years 1981 to 1983 in two units (viz. Messrs Digvijay Cement Company Limited, Ahmedabad and Messrs Hindustan Ferrodo Limited, Bombay) employing 960 and 1,200 workers respectively revealed that the incidence of asbestosis was to the extent of 6.5% and 7.2% respectively, among the 307 and 405 workers who were medically examined.

2. Asbestosis is a notifiable disease under the Factories Act and any Inspector of Factories or Certifying Surgeon who comes across such a case is required to report the matter to the State Government and the employers so that appropriate preventive and corrective steps could be taken. Measures for controlling harmful effects from air-borne asbestos dust in the workplaces have been laid down in the Factories Rules framed under the Factories Act, which are administered by the State Governments. The State Governments have been advised to enforce the provisions of law in the units strictly.

3. The Central Government have also set up in November, 1984 a Group of Secretaries for enquiring into the adequacy of steps taken in the country to shield workers in the asbestos industry, including asbestos mines, from its deleterious effects on their health.

**Sick Sugar Mills**

\*645 SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sick sugar mills run by Central Government at present in the country ;

(b) efforts being made to hand over these mills back to the local management ; and

(c) the sugar cost production ratio of these sick mills vis-a-vis the cost production ratio of other sugar mills run by the local managements in the same State ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) :

(a) The Central Government is running eight sugar mills, the management of which

[Rao Birendra Singh]

have been taken over under the Sugar Undertakings (Taking Over of Management) Act, 1978.

(b) Discussions with the owners/representatives of the owners of the mills are being held to explore the possibility of returning their mills to them.

(e) On the basis of the all-India average cane price of Rs. 22/- per quintal, the average cost of production of sugar works out to Rs. 405/- per quintal, approximately. The cost of production (without interest on long term loans) in seven out of eight Government managed mills is in the range of Rs. 376/- to Rs. 449/- per quintal except in the case of one mill.

[Translation]

#### Sheep Rearing in Hill Areas

\*646. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have chalked out a comprehensive scheme to encourage sheep rearing in the hill areas of the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to chalk out such a scheme in consultation with concerned States ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) :

(a) to (c) There is no Central Scheme for sheep development in the hill areas of the country. The State Government have taken up a number of programmes for sheep development in hill areas depending upon the priorities and available financial resources. Some of the important programmes of the State Governments are :

- (1) Sheep breeding farms for production and supply of improved breeding rams to sheep breeders.
- (2) Providing sheep extension services like breeding, health cover, improved shearing of wool through sheep and wool extension centres.
- (3) Organization of marketing facilities for wool and sheep.

Requirements of sheep development in hill areas will be kept in view while finalising the Seventh Five Year Plan.

[English]

#### T.V. Tower Obstructing Beauty of Taj Mahal

\*647. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether 150 metre high television transmission tower across the Jamuna is obstructing the beauty of the Taj Mahal since the former stands prominently in the background ;

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter by Government ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) to (c) T.V. tower at Agra is about 3.5 Kilometre away from Taj Mahal and is visible, in the background, only from some positions. However, the question of shifting the tower from its present site is being examined.

#### Maintenance of Projects Constructed by DDA

\*531 SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Union Territory of Delhi some projects are being constructed by the D.D.A. while their maintenance rests with the Delhi Municipal Corporation ;

(b) whether on account of this dichotomy of functionalities a lot of delay in execution and final take over by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi takes place ; and

(c) the proposals Government have in view to solve this problem ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Yes, Sir,