

(c) whether Government propose to call for a time bound programme for emancipation of bonded labour in the country; and

(d) what other steps Union Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The bonded labour system has been abolished by law throughout the country under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The incidence of bonded labour has been reported from 12 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Under the Act, the responsibility for identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers rests entirely with the State Governments concerned. As per the latest reports received from the State Governments, the total number of bonded labourers indentified and freed as on 30-6-1985 was 1,82,823 out of which 1,40,335 have been rehabilitated.

(c) Identification of bonded labourers and their consequent release and rehabilitation is a continuous process. The State Governments have been advised to adopt a time-bound programme for rehabilitation of bonded labourers.

(d) The State Governments have been requested, from time to time, to conduct periodic surveys to identify bonded labourers and take necessary steps for their quick release and rehabilitation. With a view to supplementing the efforts of the State Governments, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been launched by the Ministry of Labour from 1978-79 under which the State Governments are provided Central financial assistance on matching grants basis (50 : 50) for rehabilitation of bonded labourers. In order to complete the process of rehabilitation of bonded labourers as a time bound programme, annual targets are being fixed since 1982-83 for different States and they are required to rehabilitate the targeted number of bonded labourers. The progress made in this regard is also being monitored. In order to ensure that the bonded labourers do not slip back into bondage, the State Governments have been advised to integrate the Centrally Sponsored

Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour with similar other Schemes viz. IRDP, GREP, Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan and other on-going schemes of the State Governments. Other instructions issued to the State Governments include :

- (i) Need to give due cognizance to the newspaper reports highlighting the existence of bonded labourers and to inquire into the complaints received promptly and take appropriate action on the findings of the inquiry;
- (ii) Need to give due weightage to the complaints made by the voluntary agencies and social action groups and provision of relief to the aggrieved labourers in accordance with the provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976;
- (iii) Importance of enlisting the active cooperation and involvement of the voluntary agencies and social action groups in this programme; and
- (iv) Desirability of viewing public interest litigation in the correct perspective and the need to implement the directions of the Courts in time and in the right earnest.

In order to accelerate the pace of rehabilitation of bonded labourers, the procedure for sanction of rehabilitation schemes is being simplified further, whereby the District Collectors/Divisional Commissioners are being empowered to sanction the schemes. A proposal is also under consideration to simplify the procedure for release of funds for rehabilitation of bonded labourers by placing the funds at the disposal of the State Governments in advance.

Technological Research on Products and by Products of Coconut

*100. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any technological research on the efficient utilisation of the various

products and by-products of coconut is being done; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are placed in the statement below.

Statement

Research investigations on the efficient utilization of the different products and by products of coconut are in progress at the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore; the Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Trivandrum of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); the Coir Board and the Central Coir Research Institute, Kerala and the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The CFTRI has developed and released a process for desiccating coconut which has now been commercially adopted. A wet-rendering process for simultaneous recovery of oil and protein has also been worked out, which however, has not been found economically feasible.

The RRL Trivandrum has developed processes for home preservation of coconut meat; improving keeping quality of coconut oil; partially defatting edible coconut grating; bottling of matured coconut water as a soft drink; non-conventional uses for coconut husk, fibre; coir waste and coconut shell, and also a chemical process for increasing durability of coconut leaf thatch as roofing material.

The CPCRI has also developed copra dryers which use solar energy and coconut waste as fuel, as well as a process to preserve wet coconut meat from spoilage during sun-drying by dipping in 1000 ppm propionic acid for 30 minutes.

Assistance to Rural Consumer Retail outlets in Orissa

819. **SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI :** Will the Minister of **FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Orissa have approached the Central Government to extend financial assistance to the Rural Consumer Retail Outlets opened in the State through a Central Sector scheme at least for a period of five years till they become viable; and

(b) whether Central Government have considered the transport subsidy to be given to the rural consumer outlets so as to enable them to supply essential articles to the weaker sections living in the remote areas in a better way ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) No proposal for financial assistance to rural consumer retail outlets opened in Orissa through a Central Sector Scheme for a period of five years till they become viable, has been received from the Government of Orissa. However, under the Central Sector Scheme, margin money assistance is provided to the primary agricultural credit societies/farmers service societies/LAMPS, etc. to enable them to undertake distribution of consumer articles in rural areas. Under this scheme an amount of Rs. 100.20 lakhs has been released to the State Government of Orissa for 1700 such societies in Orissa.

(b) No, Sir.

Supply of Drinking Water to Villages

820. **SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :** Will the Minister of **WORKS AND HOUSING** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in every State some villages have been identified as difficult villages for the purpose of availability of drinking water;

(b) if so, the State-wise, break-up of these villages (number only) as on 1982;

(c) how many have been delisted having been provided with permanent source of drinking water;

(d) whether in Maharashtra a large number of villages have to depend on water tankers for the supply of drinking water even in the rainy season and this is continuing over five years; and