

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (c). Barren and unculturable lands include all exposed steep mountain slopes and extremely inhospitable arid tracts which cannot be brought under cultivation except at a very high cost. There is no programme to provide vegetative cover to all barren lands without regard to its suitability and cost involved.

However, in order to restore culturable waste lands and areas subject to soil erosion and land degradation to productive use, Government has been implementing the following programmes :

- (i) Soil Conservation in the catchments of river valley projects in 28 catchments spread over to 17 States and one Union Territory.
- (ii) Integrated watershed management in the catchments of flood prone rivers in 8 catchments located in 7 States and one Union Territory.
- (iii) Desert development programme in 5 States.
- (iv) Drought prone areas development programme in 88 districts in 13 States.
- (v) Soil, water and tree conservation in 12 Himalayan States and Union Territories.
- (vi) Propagation of water conservation/harvesting technology to stabilise and increase aggregate production from rainfed areas in 15 States.
- (vii) Control of shifting cultivation in Union Territories of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.
- (viii) Social forestry including rural

fuelwood plantation in 157 selected districts.

- (ix) Development and stabilisation of ravinous areas in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

During the Seventh Five Year Plan, besides continuing the on-going schemes, following programmes have been proposed for survey, categorisation and restoration of

- (i) Culturable wastelands and fallows other than current fallows.
- (ii) Areas affected by waterlogging.
- (iii) Alkali and Saline soils, and
- (iv) Coastal saline and sandy areas.

It is also proposed to set up a National Wasteland Development Board with the objective of raising fuelwood and fodder plantations.

Production of Fruits and Vegetables

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

- (a) whether per acre production of fruits and vegetables in India is much less as compared to other countries ;
- (b) if so, the per acre average production of temperate and tropical fruits and vegetables in India ;
- (c) the steps Government propose to take in the field of research and development to increase the average production ; and
- (d) the estimated expenditure to be incurred during 1985-86 in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (d). As authentic

and comprehensive data on area, production and yield of most fruits and vegetables in India are not available, it is not possible to compare the productivity of most fruits and vegetables in India with levels obtaining in other countries. Official figures indicate that during 1983-84 productivity of banana, potato, onion and sweet potato per hectare are 14.6, 15.2, 10.1 and 7.1 tonnes respectively. Comparison with other countries is available for Potato and onion only. The production per hectare is not significantly different in the case of onion while it is lower compared to U.S.A., France and West Germany for Potato.

2. Research is conducted through four Central Research Institutes, four All-India Coordinated Research Projects and eleven Ad-hoc Research Schemes. A new Institute on Temperate Horticulture and four National Centres are proposed in the Seventh Plan. The strategy for development of horticulture during the Seventh Plan will be concentrated on the following aspects :—

- (i) Optimisation of production per unit area ;
- (ii) Extension of area under trees of outstanding merit ;
- (iii) Emphasis on vegetable seed production ;
- (iv) Development of horticulture in Arid Zones ;
- (v) Integrated development of horticulture industry including processing, marketing and export.

3. The following outlays have been earmarked for research and development in horticulture in 1985-86 by Government of India :—

- (i) Research — Rs. 739.5 lakh
- (ii) Development — Rs. 262.0 lakh.

[*Translation*]

Increase in Price of Sugar

*711. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to increase the price of sugar sold through Fair Price Shops ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Consequent upon an increase in the all-India average ex-factory price of levy sugar for 1984-85, the uniform retail price of sugar sold through fair price shops has been increased from Rs 4.00 to Rs. 4.40 per kilogram with effect from 1st April, 1985.

(c) This increase has occurred due to increase in cane cost, and increase in the all-India average conversion cost, etc.

Visit of child Labour Mission of I.L.O. to India

*712. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a child labour mission from I L O. visited India in 1983 to have field studies for various child labour projects ;

(b) if so, the projects so formulated ;

(c) whether some foreign donations/ assistance are given for the projects ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) to (d). On the