

Changes in Integrated Rural Development Programme

*297 SHRI B.V. DESAI :
SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether implementation of the Integrated Rural Development Programme would require drastic changes to help those weaker sections which are still untouched by it;

(b) if so, the changes that are likely to be made;

(c) the time by which these changes will be made; and

(d) whether these changes will take effect from the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (d) A statement is given below.

Statement

A recent report on the Integrated Rural Development Programme by the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission has shown that the IRDP has had a positive impact on the income and living standards of the beneficiary households survey.

One of the more important findings of the Evaluation Report is that out of the 868 sample beneficiary households initially having an annual income of less than Rs. 3,500, 49.42% were able to achieve an annual income level of Rs. 3,500 and above after their coverage under IRDP. It has also shown that the general awareness of the programme was high among the people. Nearly 90% of the selected sample beneficiaries felt that they had benefited from the programme. A little over 88% of the beneficiaries reported that their income had increased as a result of their coverage under IRDP and almost 90% of them expressed the view that the programme had led

to an increase in their family employment. Again, about 77% of the selected sample households stated their consumption level had increased, and 64% felt that their overall social status in the village had been elevated as a result of their coverage under the programme. Another significant finding of the Evaluation Study is that 40% of the sample beneficiary families belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Keeping in view the conditions of poverty existing in the rural areas of India, these achievements are substantial even though poverty still remains a major problem to be tackled.

The report has also revealed certain deficiencies. These deficiencies mainly relate to administrative and organisational set up like frequent transfer of staff and lack of inter-sectoral linkages, low level of per capita investment, non-preparation of perspective plans and wrong identification of some beneficiaries, etc.

Following steps have been taken to improve the implementation of IRD Programme in the VII Plan :

- (i) a higher investment per family including package of assistance to enable a proper return on investment;
- (ii) a supplemental dose of assistance to these families assisted during the VI Plan who have not been able to cross the poverty line, for no fault of their own;
- (iii) the approach of uniformity, for physical and financial achievements, has been changed to one of selectivity;
- (iv) the identification of beneficiaries must be ratified by the village assemblies, as per the guidelines;
- (v) efforts to improve the linkages through identifying bodies at district-levels for this purpose or through the establishment of District Supply and Marketing Centres;

(vi) a High Level Committee has been appointed to review the existing administrative arrangements for rural development and poverty alleviation programmes; and

(vii) a new system of concurrent evaluation of current and two year old beneficiaries is being introduced.

The State Governments have also been addressed in this regard to look into and remedy the deficiencies pointed out in the report. The implementation is, thus, being streamlined and procedures being reviewed to obviate these deficiencies.

Storage Capacity

***298. SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the present storage capacity in the country;

(b) the country's total requirement of storage capacity;

(c) the extent of damage caused due to shortage of storage capacity per year; and

(d) steps being taken to increase the storage capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (d) As on 1.7.1985, the covered storage capacity with the Food Corporation of India and State agencies for foodgrains is estimated at about 23.8 million tonnes. On the basis of the existing foodgrain stock of 29.17 million tonnes, the total requirement of storage capacity for foodgrains works out to about 34.00 million tonnes.

Certain quantities of foodgrains do get damaged for want of covered storage space. However, separate figures for damage caused to foodgrains due to shortage of storage capacity are not available.

Following steps have been/are being taken to increase the availability of covered storage capacity—

(a) construction of additional storage capacity has already been taken up through the Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation and the State Warehousing Corporation. It is expected that the three agencies taken together would be able to construct an additional storage capacity of 2.28 million tonnes for foodgrains during 1985-86;

(ii) the Food Corporation of India is also making efforts to hire additional storage capacity from various sources;

(iii) efforts are also on to step up the utilisation of the available storage capacity by increasing stack height, reducing alleyways, etc.

Publicity to Legal Aid Scheme on T.V. and AIR

***299. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that although the Government of Maharashtra have enforced the legal aid scheme for the poor, women and the backward classes, the scheme is not fully utilised by the needy, as many are not aware of it both in the urban and rural areas;

(b) whether Government propose to give wide publicity to the scheme both on TV and AIR; and

(c) if so, the details of the scheme drawn up in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) to (c) The media are broadcasting and telecasting several programmes conveying information and details on the scheme of