

public distribution system for the last 5 years. It is proposed this year to supplement this effort by marketing limited quantities of imported edible oils in small consumer packs on an experimental basis. The sale is being organised by M/s. Ganesh Flour Mills Co. Ltd., a company, under Government of India management through Super Bazars and Co-operative Societies. This is expected to improve availability of edible oils packed in tins to the consumers at reasonable prices.

### Programmes of Preserving and Replanting of Trees

\*120. SHRI CAITTA MAHATA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the programme of preserving and replanting of trees is being implemented by all the States in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the name of those States which are not implementing this programme and what steps Government propose to take to ensure that the programme is implemented properly ?

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

(b) For preserving the trees in the forests, the States/ UTs have provided an amount of Rs. 1981.23 lakhs during the Sixth Five Year Plan for employing protective staff and for providing them with vehicles and equipment like arms, walky-talkies etc. Mobile squads are also set up for this purpose. Protection of forests is the normal duty of the Forest Departments and is carried out as a non-plan activity also.

As regards replanting programme, plantations over 21.28 lakh ha. have been raised upto the year 1979-80 in the forest areas in the country. A further area of 6.24 lakh ha. is proposed to be planted during the Sixth Plan with an outlay of Rs. 100.31 crores. In addition, under the Social Forestry programme an area of 14.29 lakh ha. has been planted upto 1979-80 and it is proposed to plant 15.23 lakhs ha. during the Sixth Plan with an outlay of Rs. 351.88 crores.

(c) Question does not arise.

### Amendment to Land Ceiling Act

\*121. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA :

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY ;

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to amend the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976;

(b) if so, details thereof ;

(c) what are the changes likely to be made ; and

(d) how it is proposed to arrest the unwarranted increase in and prices ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH) : (a) to (c). The Government of India is actively considering the question of amendments to the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976. It is not in public interest to discuss the details at this stage,

(d) The price rise in urban land appears to be due to, among other factors, general inflationary trends, shortage of serviced land and increased influx of migrants into cities. These factors will be kept in mind while taking the final decision regarding amendments to the Act.

### Production of Groundnut in Orissa

\*122. SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that production of groundnut in Orissa has been declining for the last seven years;

(b) has any intensive study been effected to examine the decline in production per hectare; and

(c) if so, whether Government plan to take steps for the improvement in production ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Production of groundnut in Orissa has been showing year to year variations. During the last seven years, it was as low as 118.6 thousand tonnes (1976-77) and as high as 233.5 thousand tonnes (1980-81).

(b) There has been no steady decline in production per hectare of groundnut in Orissa though there have been variations from year to year. Production per hectare was as high as 1371 kg/ha (1974-75) and as low as 703 kg/ha. (1979-80) which rose to 1299 kg/ha in 1980-81. The situation is under constant study and review.

(c) The Government is taking steps for bringing more area under irrigated groundnut in the State.

The Prime Minister has written to the State Chief Minister in this regard. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government in this behalf, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Extension of Oil seeds to New Irrigated Areas has been sanctioned for implementation in Orissa.

### Request from West Bengal to amend Weights and Measures Act

1154. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARYA :

SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the West Bengal Government to amend the existing Weights and Measures Act ; and

(b) if so, what are the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### Rural Roads under Minimum Needs Programme

1155. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has suggested levying a cess on agricultural products to raise resources for linking all villages with roads ;