

(f) steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN : (a) to (c). According to Vizag Port Trust Authorities 4 imported trawlers are lying at Vizag port since 1.2.82 awaiting clearance by the importers.

(d): No, Sir.

(e) and (f). Questions do not arise.

Removal of Rural Poverty

*761. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the problem of rural poverty can be solved through the presently operating employment generating scheme in rural areas;

(b) if so, the outlines thereof; and

(c) whether the rural C. D. blocks in the country are not sufficiently equipped with expertise to dovetail the scheme in consonance with the needs of the people and or its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) and (b). The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the programmes of (i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), (ii) National Scheme of Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and (iii) National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) for maximising the employment opportunities in the rural areas and raising the income level of the identified target groups.

(c) The set up of the block machinery differs from State to State. Wherever the blocks are not sufficiently equipped with necessary expertise to carry out the schemes, the Government of India have offered 50 per cent assistance to State Governments for strengthening of block level administration.

Enhancing per hectare food production

*762. SHRI GHULAM MOHAMMAD KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that average food production per hectare in India is lower as compared to world's average food production per hectare;

(b) whether it is also a fact that non-availability of technology and good quality of seeds at cheap price also contribute to the short food output in the country; and

(c) what special steps are proposed to be taken to increase food production per hectare during the remaining period of the Sixth Plan?

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

(b). No Sir.

(c) The following steps are being taken to increase food production per hectare during the VI Plan period:

1. Increasing the area under High Yielding varieties.
2. Increasing the consumption of fertilizers.
3. Increasing the irrigated area.
4. Increased distribution of quality seeds.
5. Adequate plant protection measures.
6. Increasing cropping intensity in irrigated and rainfed areas.
7. Transfer of technology through the newly re-organised extension system of Training and Visits.
8. A number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented for increasing food production.