

that as soon as land is declared surplus and allotted, immediately its title should be confirmed on the allottees. So, we are trying to see that all these time lags are reduced to the minimum extent possible. As soon as the crops are removed, the transfer of possession of land will be taking place in the near future.

(Interruptions).

Misuse of Agricultural Land in Goa

*10. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an industrialist in Goa is utilising fertile agricultural land at Siroda (Goa) for non-agricultural purposes, when non-agricultural lands are available just nearby; and

(b) what steps Government have taken or are going to take, so that non-agricultural land is utilised instead of agricultural land for non-agricultural purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNA SAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

Statement

Messrs Mandvi Pellets Ltd.—a joint venture of the Government of India and Messrs Chowgule Metal Industries Pelletisation Plant—has utilised a little over 12 hectares of agricultural land at Siroda in Goa for the purpose of a pelletisation plant. This was authorised by the appropriate authority as no suitable non-agricultural land for the purpose could be located. The Goa Administration has already decided that no additional agricultural land would be permitted for the use of this plant.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR: In the statement, the hon. Minister has said the Pelletisation

Plant which is being set up in Goa is a joint venture between the Government of India and Messrs Chowgule Metal Industries. On behalf of the Government of India. It is the Steel Authority of India Limited. The Steel Authority of India Limited has only 33 per cent shares. Mr. Chowgule has 66 per cent shares, 33 per cent of his own and 33 per cent of his own people. So, I do not know whether it can be called a joint venture. Can this be called a joint venture?

In the Question that I had given, I had said that Chowgules are doing something in collaboration with the local Government. That portion was eliminated from the question. Again, it is stated in the statement that this was authorised by the appropriate authority, which means, the local Government. I do not know why that portion was omitted from my Question.

Anyway, if someone has taken a decision, it would be the local Government, the Goa Government. Now, the local Government, would not have taken a decision on their own. The decision must have been taken on the basis of some report. May I know from the hon Minister whether the Government is aware that two officials considered to be experts were sent to Goa to submit a report, that they were staying in posh hotels in Goa...

MR SPEAKER: You should ask a question, not give any information.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR: The senior one was staying in a five-star hotel situated far away from Panjim and the other one was staying in the Mandvi Hotel. Both of them were moving in Mr. Chowgule's car accompanied by Mr. Chowgule's people. Can the report submitted by these two officials be taken as an objective report and can a decision be taken on the basis of such a report which is not objective?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I am sorry the hon. Member is exercised over the acquisition of 12 hectares of land for an industrial project which is export-oriented. About the land acquisition proceedings, the District Magistrate made necessary enquiries and recommended that this is a suitable place for locating the industrial project. The State Government also supported the District Magistrate's report and it is on that basis that the land was approved for acquisition. I have no information as to who were the officials, where they were staying and all that.

MR SPEAKER: His only point is, whether the report is objective.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Not only that. The question is whether it is open for someone, however rich he may be, to manoeuvre things, that he will get the cardinal principles by which the Government stands thrown to the winds and that he is able to get the things done. If he is able to manipulate with the help of bureaucrats and officials, this is the type of thing which should come to an end. It is to that I want him to answer—whether the Government is sure that in acquiring this 12 hectares of land they have not fallen into the trap of unprincipled and unscrupulous people.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I strongly repudiate what the Hon. Member is saying. In fact, unnecessary meaning should not be attributed. As far as the Government of India is aware, all the procedures were followed in this case on the basis of objectivity the State Government had indicated.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that a number of agriculturists including landless labourers in that area who had been busy with cultivation of land, had requested, not once but on many occasions, the

Government officials to allocate some land to the Chowgules which is not agricultural land, but Government started to support the stand of the Chowgules. I would like to know whether it is a fact that a memorandum was received and whether a deputation was received from the agriculturists and landless labourers—because I met a team, all young labourers and young agriculturists, who came to Delhi to meet all concerned and tried door to door explaining the way the Chowgules deprived them of the right to cultivate the land. I would like to know whether the Minister is reviewing it or not.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I can only say that a District Magistrate examined the advisability of using the land for the purpose and the possibility of finding out a suitable alternative site for it. He came to the conclusion that no other suitable non-agricultural land was available.

MR SPEAKER: The question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

U. P. Irrigation Projects

*3 **SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh Government have submitted two major irrigation projects to step up irrigation facilities in the State;

(b) whether the Centre has given its approval for the schemes, and

(c) if so, the outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH): (a) and (b), Uttar Pradesh