

ing to the very high income groups were supplied foodgrains at controlled and even subsidised prices. The Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation thereupon casually remarked that this would require modification of the present system and perhaps introduction of informal rationing. He, however, added the question of any such change in the existing system would need to be examined very carefully in view of its various implications.

Development of Waste Land in Punjab during Fifth Plan

*480. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large area of waste land which can be used for the agricultural purposes in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, whether due to shortage of funds Punjab Government have not been able to make it fit for agricultural purposes; and

(c) whether any funds have been allotted to Punjab during Fifth Plan for the development of waste land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). According to the latest available Land Utilization Statistics (1972-73), there is an area of 73,000 hectares of cultivable waste land in Punjab. Out of this, an area of 42,000 hectares is lying uncultivated due to high incidence of salts.

The Government of Punjab are making efforts to reclaim the available waste-land affected with salinity/alkalinity. A provision of Rs. 97 lakhs has been proposed for such reclamation in the State Agriculture Department's outlay for the Fifth Plan. In addition, under the programme of the Punjab Soil Conservation Department an outlay of Rs. 30.00 lakhs is proposed for reclamation of 'RAKKAR' and 'THUR' areas for the Fifth Plan.

A centrally sponsored scheme for providing assistance to the States for reclamation of saline, alkaline and acidic soils is contemplated to be implemented during the Fifth Plan with a proposed outlay of Rs. 13 crores. Under this scheme, it is proposed to provide subsidies to the farmers, in States including Punjab, to enable them to meet the cost of gypsum to be applied to the affected lands as a soil amendment.

Reservation in Teaching Posts by Delhi University

*481. SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received by the Government from various quarters for introducing reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the teaching posts by the Delhi University;

(b) whether the Ministry of Home Affairs have also since issued instructions clarifying that reservations should be allowed in all their posts by the Universities by making suitable provision in the relevant Statutes/Articles and Association; and

(c) if so, what steps the Ministry of Education propose taking to ensure that reservations are introduced at the time of recruitment, promotion, in all types of posts in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Home Affairs had requested in September, 1974, various Ministries of Government of India to provide reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the services of autonomous bodies/institutions which are receiving grants from the Government of India.