

(b) Continuous supply of a high percentage of imported oils to vanaspati manufacturers should help to a great extent to ensure its uninterrupted production. The prices of imported oils at present are kept deliberately lower than the prices of indigenous oils to have a softening effect on the prices of vanaspati as also the indigenous edible oils.

(c) The State Trading Corporation of India has, under instructions from the Government, contracted for about 1 lakh tonnes of imported oils for supplies between August and November 1976. This, coupled with the stocks of 37,000 tonnes that STC had on July 15, 1976, should be sufficient to meet the requirements of the industry till the end of the year. The STC has hired additional storage capacity in port towns and principal consuming centres like Delhi, Ghaziabad, Modinagar and Amritsar. Rail movement of oils, in rakes, from port towns to vanaspati producing areas has been arranged. The vanaspati factories have been instructed to ensure quick and continuous off take of the imported oils and to lift the oils at least on a weekly basis.

Benefit to Agricultural Labourers from Land Reforms

*86 SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state

(a) whether less than 1 per cent of the agricultural labourers have been benefited by the new land reforms,

(b) whether out of 5 crore landless agricultural house-holds, only 18 lakhs have been benefited, and

(c) if so, reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANASAHEB P. SHINDE) (a) to (c) According to the

1971 decennial census there are 47.6 million agricultural workers in the country. An agricultural worker is one who earns the major part of his living from agricultural wages. So far more than 22 lakh acres of land have been declared surplus as a result of the implementation of the land ceiling measures taken in the light of the national guidelines on land ceiling. Out of these, 85 lakh acres have been distributed to 4,05,000 agricultural workers and other eligible persons. Distribution of waste land, gaon sabha land etc., has also been going on simultaneously. During the past several years more than 16 million acres of such land have been distributed. While it is one of the objectives of the land reforms policy to make land available to as many as possible among persons who are in need of land, it is visualised that there will not be enough land available from land ceiling measures for meeting the needs of all. Distribution of land available from land ceiling measures is only one component of an integrated policy for the development of the agrarian economy.

Formation of National Capital Region Committee

*88 SHRI M S PURTY Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have formed 'National Capital Region Committee' to relieve the pressure of population in Delhi and

(b) if so its composition and functions?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K RAGHURAMAI AH), (a) Government have set up a High Powered Board to ensure formulation and the implementation of development plans for the Delhi Metropolitan Area and the National Capital Region. The High Powered Board has