

(c) A proposal to construct two warehouses in district Howrah is at present under the consideration of the Central Warehousing Corporation.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of a T.V. Relay Centre in Songadh

979. SHRI C. D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a demand has been made to set up a T.V. relay centre in Songadh tribal area in Surat District in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the time by which T.V. relay centre is likely to be set up in Songadh and the details of the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) Requests for extending TV coverage in Surat district have been received from time to time.

(b) and (c). A low power TV transmitter was commissioned at Surat on 29-7-84. There is no approved scheme, at present, to set up a TV Relay Centre at Songadh.

[*English*]

Formation of Employment Policy for the Seventh Five Year Plan

980. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have framed its employment policy for the Seventh Five Years Plan period 1985-90; and

(b) the details of the policy, projections for employment in different sectors by 1985-90 and how the policy is proposed to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) (a) and (b). The Approach Paper to the Seventh Five Years Plan (1985-90) states that the generation of

gainful employment through integration of the sectoral production plans with employment plans and enlargement of on-going employment programmes under a National Employment Programme to cover specific target groups will be emphasized in the Seventh Plan. Employment schemes will aim at the creation of durable assets, skill formation and generation of permanent and continuing employment with progressively increasing income levels. In addition, the schemes will continue to promote self employment in economically viable activities backed up by the requisite training, credit, marketing and organisational linkages. Projections for employment in different sectors by 1985-90 are not available.

Incentives to Farmers to Boost Production

981. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the incentives proposed to be provided to the farmers to encourage increase in production of various crops and to ensure fair and remunerative prices to them for the produce ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : Apart from fixing the support prices of major agricultural commodities at remunerative levels, Government provide subsidy on a wide range of agricultural inputs in order to encourage production. These subsidies are given for specific inputs as well as agricultural operations. In addition, demonstrations and training are also subsidised. For example, Government arrange supply of required quantity of chemical fertilizers to farmers at subsidised prices through sale points established throughout the country. Government also provide subsidy for encouraging usage of inputs like seeds, pesticides etc. under different programmes. Moreover, the electricity tariff, irrigation charges as well as interest rates have been kept lower for agricultural purposes. Efforts are being made to improve the delivery systems of agricultural inputs to encourage farmers to take to improved technology. In various subsidy programmes, small and marginal farmers are

specially catered to. A comprehensive scheme of crop insurance is being introduced for paddy, wheat, oilseeds and pulses for which insurance charges will be low and the charges for small and marginal farmers would be subsidised. It is also proposed to strengthen the price support operations for the benefit of the farmers.

Target for Raising the Income of Families of Target Group

982. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the target for raising the income of the families belonging to the target group consisting of small and marginal farmers, share croppers, agricultural labourers, landless people and rural artisans in West Bengal under the Integrated Rural Development Programmes during the Sixth Five Year Plan period 1980-85;

(b) to what extent the above target has so far been achieved in West Bengal;

(c) the amount of assistance sanctioned by the Centre and the amount of this assistance which was actually utilised for the above purpose by the Government of West Bengal upto 1983-84; and

(d) the reasons for shortfall, if any, in achieving the target or utilisation of the assistance sanctioned by the Centre ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). A target of assisting 10.05 lakh families was set for West Bengal under the Intergrated Rural Development Programme during the Sixth Five Year Plan period (1980-85). Against this target, 5.52 lakh families had been assisted under the programme during the Sixth Five Year Plan period upto December, 1984.

(c) Against the Central allocation of Rs. 4522.50 lakhs, an amount of Rs. 1319.92 lakhs was released by the Central Government for the IRD Programme to West Bengal for 1980-84. In addition, an amount of Rs. 661 lakhs released by Centre in 1978-80 was also available with the State. The total utilisation, including

the State share, during 1980-84 was Rs. 3001.12 lakhs.

(d) The main reason for the shortfall in the achievement of target and utilisation of assistance in West Bengal was the late start of the Programme resulting in slow progress in the implementation during the initial years of the Sixth Plan. The pace of implementation has picked up from 1983-84 onwards.

Funds for Development of Rural Roads in Hilly Areas of Maharashtra

983. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has any proposal to sanction funds for the development of rural roads in hilly and inaccessible areas of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the areas of Maharashtra to be included in that proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). The development of rural roads is mainly taken up as part of minimum needs programme in the state sector, funds for which are provided in the state plans. As per information given by the State Government in the Draft Seventh Five Year Plan and Annual Plan 1985-86 document for Maharashtra the State Government undertook rural roads development in backward areas of Vidharbha and hilly areas of Western Maharashtra during the Sixth Plan. An amount of Rs. 17.29 crores is likely to be spent on Vidharbha roads and Rs. 7.39 crores on special roads programme in hilly areas during Sixth Plan period. In hilly areas 585 foot bridges are expected to be completed with an expenditure of Rs. 7.37 crores.

The States can also take up rural road schemes under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme which is a central sector programme launched in August, 1983. Rural roads projects costing Rs. 29 crores for Maharashtra have been approved under this programme.