

for agricultural power. This is the only pathway which can help us to solve the twin problems of poverty and unemployment. Just as reaching the moon is no longer science fiction, becoming a bread basket of the world need not remain a piece of wishful thinking. If, however, the requisite degree of coordinated and dedicated action is not forthcoming, there is also the possibility that we may have to carry the begging bowl again.

(b) and (c). The Planning Commission has been making an assessment of agricultural potential and targets in each Five Year Plan document. The National Commission on Agriculture has also made an assessment of India's production potential in various crops until the end of this century. Several international experts have also drawn attention to the immense potential available for increasing agricultural production, particularly in the Indo-Gangetic plains. The various agricultural development programmes initiated by the State and Central Governments are designed to take advantage of the untapped production reservoir available even at current levels of technology. In addition, the Government of India had recently constituted a study team under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to assess the potential for increasing the export of agricultural commodities. This team has given its report and the recommendations are under examination.

Holding of World Conference of Children

5772. SHRI SRIKRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to hold first world conference of Children;

(b) when this conference is likely to be held; and

(c) the names of countries who are likely to participate in this conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI RENUKA DEVI BARAKATAKI): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, the International Union for Child Welfare proposes to hold the World Conference of Children from 13 November to 23 November 1979 in New Delhi. The Government of India is not directly associated with the organisation of the Conference. However, to the extent possible, Government will give moral support to the organisers of the conference and extend a token financial assistance.

(c) Does not arise as the proposed conference is not being organised by the Government of India.

Nepal based C.P.W.D. confirmed Employees

5773. SHRI MANOHAR LAL: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Nepal-based staff, category-wise, under his Ministry which enjoy confirmation;

(b) the categories and number of staff not confirmed after putting in two years of qualifying service;

(c) action taken/being taken/proposed to be taken for confirming the employees who put in the qualifying service; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) Nil, as all the Nepal based staff were recruited on temporary basis.