

under the Integrated Rural Development Programme with effect from 2nd October, 1980. Thus all the 17 blocks of the Sundergarh District are covered under the programme. At the rate of Rs. 6 lakhs per block they are entitled to an allocation of Rs. 102 lakhs during 1981-82. It is proposed to cover 600 families per block. Thus 10,200 families are expected to be covered under IRD Programme during 1981-82 in Sundergarh district.

**News Item Captioned 'DDA has more Cement than it can Handle'**

1144. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item "DDA has more cement than it can handle" appearing in the Indian Express dated 16 July, 1981;

(b) if so, his reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that there had been a large scale pilferage and misappropriation of this precious commodity; and

(d) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed for this state of affairs and delinquent parties brought to book?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The DDA has reported that the News item is not correct. The cement was lifted within the permissible time and no demurrage charges were paid.

(c) and (d). The DDA has reported that eight cases of alleged theft of DDA's cement have come to notice. These cases are under investigation by the police.

**Conference of State Ministers in New Delhi**

1145. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SEKHARA MURTHY

SHRI GHULAM MOHD. KHAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had called a conference of the State Ministers in New Delhi during the month of July, 1981;

(b) if so, what were the subjects discussed;

(c) the decisions arrived at;

(d) the steps taken by the State Governments to implement the suggestions; and

(e) whether any committee has been set up to watch the implementation of the recommendations made in the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The items discussed at the conference were:—

I Employment generation for the rural unemployed

II Development of tertiary sector.

III Infrastructural development for employment generation.

IV Norms for quantification for employment generation under different Rural Development Programmes.

(c) to (e) The conference made a number of recommendations. Also, it adopted a resolution urging Central Government to set up a Committee to recommend *inter-alia* a suitable policy for rural employment. All these are under consideration of Central Government.