

(d) whether crop insurance benefits on an emergency footing is being considered to relieve the afflicted peasantry in affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) A viral disease of paddy commonly known as Rice Tungro Virus (RTV) appeared during the kharif in isolated pockets of West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, in light to moderate intensity.

(b) No precise estimates of crop loss in different States are available.

(c) The Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine & Storage, under the Ministry of Agriculture, is conducting regular surveys on paddy in collaboration with 12 paddy growing States for pest monitoring and forewarning. The disease incidence was detected at the initial stage during first fortnight of September, 1981, and the States adopted timely plant protection measures to check the spread of the disease. The I.C.A.R. Scientists also visited the disease affected areas in West Bengal and Bihar for investigations and advised the States to contain the spread of the disease.

(d) No, Sir.

Working of Urban Land Ceiling Act in States

209. SHRI CHANDRABHAN ATHARE PATIL:

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any reports about the progress so far made in the working of Urban

Land Ceiling Act in each State and if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether the State Government have intimated any difficulties and procedural rigorous experienced by them in the implementation of the various provisions of the Act;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) what action Government have taken in the matter;

(e) whether Urban Land prices in Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay and other capital cities have abnormally increased during the last two years; and

(f) if so, steps Government have taken or propose to take to check the rise in land prices?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. A Statement showing the progress of implementation of the Act as on 1-11-81 is annexed. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2914/81.]

(b) to (d). The State Governments have from time to time brought to the notice of the Central Government several anomalies and lacunae in the Act as well as procedural difficulties, such as definition of family, vacant land, application of the Act to agricultural lands ceiling limit for family, inadequate payment of amount, etc. Appropriate remedial measures have been considered and the proposal to amend the Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act is in process.

(e) and (f). The price rise appears to be due to general inflationary trends and low availability of plots for free purchase. As regards Delhi, about 23,000 plots had been allotted by the D.D.A. to persons belonging

to lower-income group and middle income-group upto the 31st March, 1981, on pre-determined rates. In addition to this, about 2 lakh plots measuring 25 sq. yards and 80 sq. yds. were allotted in resettlement colonies on nominal licences fee basis.

About 3670 acres of land has been allotted to House Building Cooperative Societies by the Delhi Administration and D.D.A., for development of about 28,000 residential plots.

Further, the D.D.A. has launched an ambitious residential scheme known as 'Rohini' for allotment of 1,17,000 residential plots under L.I.G., M.I.G. and Janata Categories and about 17,000 dwelling units in Group Housing. This programme apart from going a long way to solving the residential problem is expected to result in reducing the prices of land.

As regards land prices in Bombay, Calcutta and other capital cities, 'land' being a State subject, it is for the State Governments concerned to tackle the problem.

National Rural employment programme in Orissa

210. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts of Orissa where National Rural Employment Programmes have been taken up;

(b) what are the different rural reconstruction and rural employment programmes undertaken in Keonjhar district of Orissa in last six months of this financial year; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM):
(a) Works under National Rural Em-

ployment Programmes have been taken up in all the districts of Orissa.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Western Kosi Canal

211. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2038 on 31 August, 1981 regarding curve of Western Kosi Canal and state:

(a) whether examination of the points regarding substandard bricks and cement, proper alignment of the Western Kosi Canal between R.D. 131 and 249.70, non-completion of the canal east of river Kamla and in the Napalese territory has since been completed;

(b) if so, result thereof and if not, reasons for delay; and

(c) in accordance with the reply given by the Minister on 2 September, 1981 during half-an-hour discussion whether the revised Kosi Control Board has since met and whether entry 56 of the Constitution is being amended; if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The Chief Engineer, Western Kosi Canal Project, Bihar has intimated that complaints about use of substandard bricks and cement are not based on facts. He has further stated that the work is being supervised, apart from the field Engineers, by Quality Control Organisation of the Project and is also inspected by the Vigilance organisation of the State occasionally. The realignment of the Western Kosi Canal between R.D. 131 and 249.70 and the design of the cross drainage structure at Kamla river crossing, are being considered by the State