

Implementation of land Ceiling Act

2552. SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are inclined to implement legislation and decisions on land ceiling, distribution of surplus lands and completion of land records by removing administrative and legal obstacles; and

(b) if so, why an amendment to West Bengal Land Reforms Act intended to facilitate the seizure of concealed lands which was passed by the State Assembly has been lying with the Union Government for several months for President's assent?

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

(b) The comments of the Government of India on the West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 1981 were forwarded to the West Bengal Government on 1-4-1982. The views of the State Government on those comments are still awaited.

Import of Foot and Mouth disease vaccine from UK

2553. SHRI L. S. TUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dairy Board have imported Foot and Mouth diseases vaccine from U.K.

(b) whether it is also a fact that Dairy Board have decided without any clearance and project site, starting of Disease free Zones, involving diversion of Rs. 30 crores of World Bank loan for free supply of vaccine in Southern States despite the fact that worst affected areas are in the north;

(c) whether Government are aware that this is to cover the failure of Foot and Mouth Diseases Vaccine Project

as each dose is likely to cost a lot more than what has been put out in the project calculations; and

(d) whether Government will order an inquiry in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Dairy Development Board has imported Foot & Mouth Disease Vaccine from United Kingdom for use in the Government approved Pilot Vaccination Programme in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu on the basis of a valid customs clearance permit.

(b) It is Government's endeavour to progressively eliminate Foot & Mouth Disease which causes an annual loss of over Rs. 400 crores by way of loss in milk production and draft power. The Government accordingly approved under Operation Flood II, the setting up of a Foot & Mouth Disease Vaccine Plant near Hyderabad and a Foot & Mouth Disease Pilot Vaccination Programme to create disease free zone in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu. Since Foot & Mouth disease is endemic, creating Foot & Mouth disease free zone as a part of progressive disease elimination requires selection of a project area where quarantine is possible by creating a quarantine belt. Since the southern most part of India is surrounded on three sides by sea, the natural barricade leaves only one side where effective quarantine control would be required to create a disease free zone. Further, since cattle, indigenous as well as cross breeds are most affected by Foot & Mouth Disease, predominantly cow areas have been chosen for creation of a disease free zone. The project however, could be extended to other States who are anxious to bring the disease under control in contiguous districts within their respective States and where the co-operative infrastructure is well established. This project for creation of a disease free zone is proposed to be financed out of funds