

is under consideration of the Government.

Population Policy Recommended by Economists, Sociologists and Mass Communication Experts

4463. SHRI M. S. SIVASAMY :
SHRI P. GANGADEB :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered the new population policy as recommended by the economists, sociologists and mass communication experts from universities and other institutions who recently had a critical look at India's population policy in Delhi ; and

(b) if so, the out-come thereof and the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) and (b). No specific population policy was recommended by the Seminar of Sociologists held in Delhi on 25th and 26th March, 1972. Certain views were expressed and these will be given due consideration.

Rural Electrification Corporation Schemes, for Adivasi Areas

4464. SHRI RANABHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria followed in sanctioning Rural Electrification Corporation schemes for Adivasi areas ;

(b) the number of schemes of this nature that have been set up for sanction by the Himachal Pradesh State Government ; and

(c) the number of such schemes that have been sanctioned by the Central Government ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : (a) to (c). The Department is not concerned with the subject matter. The

Ministry of Irrigation and Power who are concerned with the Rural Electrification Corporation schemes have stated that they have no schemes for Adivasi Arcas including Himachal Pradesh.

Untouchability and Bonded Labour in Gujarat

4465. SHRI VEKARIA :
SHRI D. P. JADEJA :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of districts or regions in Gujarat State where untouchability and bonded labour is still practised ; and

(b) the steps being taken for eradication of untouchability completely from the State ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : (a) The number of cases registered under the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955, during the year 1971 was 169, out of which 151 cases were challaned by the police. The information regarding the districts or regions in which these cases occurred is not available. The State Government has reported that bonded labour is not prevalent in the State.

(b) The steps taken by the State Government for eradication of untouchability are given in the note laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—1894/72.*]

The Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 is also being amended to make its penal provisions more stringent.

Procurement Price of Rice in States

4466. SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased state :

(a) the procurement price of rice in each State ; and

(b) whether the Agricultural Prices Commission has recommended that the procure-