

attempt to co-ordinate the seed multiplication activities of the States and the Central Government?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Yes. In the beginning, as I said, the effort of the corporation will be to co-ordinate the activities of both the Central and State Governments.

Shri D. J. Naik: May I know why maize seed has been given preference?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Because in other fields something has been done and this hybrid maize seed requires much attention at present.

Co-operatives of Consumers of Petroleum Products

*561. { ⁺
Shri P. Kunhan:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the State Governments to find out the possibilities of setting up co-operatives of consumers of petroleum products at district level to run service stations and petrol pumps for distribution of petroleum products of Indian Oil Co.;

(b) if so, whether any replies have been received from the State Governments; and

(c) if so, what action the Central Government have taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) Yes, Sir. State governments have recently been requested to examine the possibility of organising cooperatives of users for running petrol/diesel pump-cum-servicing stations, preferably at district levels for the distribution of petroleum products manufactured by Messrs. Indian Oil Co. Ltd.

(b) One interim reply has been received so far.

(c) Further action will be taken when replies from the States are received.

Shri P. Kunhan: May I know whether any of the State Governments has taken any initiative in implementing this scheme during the Third Five Year Plan, and if not, the reason therefor?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: This request was made only on the 19th of last month, and still we are awaiting the reactions of the States.

Shri Warrior: May I know whether any such co-operative societies have been formed in any of the States and they have taken up this business?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: Not under this scheme. But there are co-operative societies of consumers of petrol in Delhi itself.

Shri Kashi Ram Gupta: May I know the definition of 'user-members' of this society? Who can be the members of the society as users?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: The definition of 'users' is very clear. They must be owners of either cars, or scooters, or buses or trucks etc. Those are the users.

Mr. Speaker: Now, Shri Man Sinh P. Patel.

Shri Kashi Ram Gupta: Drivers are not included?

Mr. Speaker: I have called Shri Man Sinh P. Patel.

Shri Man Sinh P. Patel: May I know whether this agency will be given to the apex unit of the existing co-operative societies or to the district purchase and sale unions?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: It will all depend on who promotes these co-operatives. They will be mostly at the district level, as has already been mentioned in the main answer.

Shri P. Venkatasubbiah: May I know whether any model by-laws have been framed, so that they may

be universally adopted whenever these societies are formed in the different States?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: Model schemes have been circulated. The by-laws have not been framed. It will be for the respective co-operative societies to frame their own by-laws.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Once these co-operatives are floated or are set up, may I know whether Government will be helpful to them in securing the petrol depots?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: It is not for Government to secure the depots. It is Messrs. Indian Oil Co. Ltd. which itself secures depots, sometimes procures the lands and gives certain finances for this purpose.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: My submission is this. Once these co-operatives are set up, at least there must be some agency for enabling them to get these depots from these big combines. If they do not get them, then there is no use of setting up these co-operatives.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Deputy Minister has stated that that would be for the Indian Oil Co. Ltd.

Shri Sivamurthi Swamy: May I know how many co-operative societies are working in the country at present and how many have applied?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: Under this scheme or under any other scheme?

Shri Sivamurthi Swamy: Under this scheme in regard to petrol.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has replied already that there is none yet.

Water Resources

*562. **Shri Tan Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to plan a programme for

conservation of water resources to safeguard and regulate future development of all water supply systems; and

(b) whether any survey at National or State level is likely to be conducted to decide the nature and extent of resources which will have to be harnessed for the present and future needs of the country?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health (Dr. D. S. Raju): (a) and (b). A proposal to institute a water resources study of river valleys to cover water supply requirements for domestic and industrial purposes is under consideration. This study is contemplated to be a part of study on natural resources.

Crop Pattern

*564. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take measures for the regulation of acreage and crop pattern in the country; and

(b) if so, what are they?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). It is not proposed to regulate the acreage or cropping patterns in the country by legislation, but it is proposed to influence the acreages and cropping patterns through persuasion and incentives such as prizes, facilities for growing, processing and marketing the crops.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what method of persuasion Government are going to adopt so that the crop pattern is variegated and brings good results to the country?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Actually, the hon. Member might be aware that in areas where irrigation facilities are going to be provided, we have already requested the State Governments to introduce cotton; and in jute-growing