

of this year, we shall have the formation for this alternate line ready.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Exploratory Tubewell Organisation

*456. **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive survey of the acute scarcity of water prevailing in certain desert areas has been made or is proposed to be made;

(b) whether it has been represented to Government that allocations made for the Exploratory Tubewell Organisation are utterly inadequate; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) The Exploratory Tubewell Organisation under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture has been carrying out ground-water exploration in the desert areas of Rajasthan and semi-arid areas of Punjab, Gujarat and Maharashtra, as well as, in the other parts of the country. The preliminary selection of areas for exploration are made in consultation with the State Governments concerned and on the basis of available geological and hydrological records. Only those areas which are *prima-facie* promising are examined for a more detailed survey to determine the number and location of exploratory bores to be drilled in order to ensure that a proper delineation of the area having ground-water potentiality is made.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of Co-operatives

*457. { **Shrimati Savitri Nigam:**
Shri P. C. Boroah:

Will the Minister of Community Development and Cooperation be

pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 451 on the 20th August, 1962 and state when the six working groups which were appointed for Industrial Cooperatives, Housing Cooperatives, Transport Cooperatives, Dairy Cooperatives, Husbandry Cooperatives, Fisheries Cooperatives and Cooperatives under Railways and Posts and Telegraphs are expected to submit their reports?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): Two working groups viz. those on Industrial Cooperatives and Cooperatives under the Railways and Posts and Telegraphs Department have submitted their reports. The working groups on Transport Cooperatives and Dairying and Animal Husbandry Cooperatives are expected to submit their reports by the end of September, 1963. The working group on Housing Cooperatives is expected to submit its report by the end of November, 1963. The Working Group on Fisheries Cooperatives has started its work. It is not possible to indicate the exact date by which its report will be ready but efforts will be made to get the work completed early.

Mysterious Object in Sky

*458. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the 9th June, 1963 an illuminated object like a glaring star appeared over the city of Madras at about 8-30 p.m. and passed over from south-west to north-east which lasted for 20 minutes; and

(b) if so, whether it was a sputnik or flying saucer or something else?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) and (b). There is no information from Madras to confirm the phenomenon. However, the U.P. State Observatory has reported that the U.S. Satellite Echo I was observed at over Nainital at 9.45 P.M. on 9th June, and the