

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

same satellite was observed at Nainital again on 10th June at 8:44 p.m.

Agricultural Development in Andamans

*459. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount allotted for agricultural development in Andamans for 1962-63 was not fully spent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure full utilisation of the allotted amounts in future?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount could not be utilised fully for the following reasons:

1. Slow progress by contractors in the clearance of jungle land selected in Andamans for coconut plantations. In Nicobars no contractor has come forward to take up the clearance work in the Katchal Island due to lack of means of communications.
2. Non-availability of full complement of the technical staff provided for under various agricultural schemes.
3. Non-execution of pilot project scheme relating to rubber cultivation by the Rubber Board.

(c) 1. In Andamans the Forest Department has been asked to take up the work departmentally in case they to complete the work in time. In Inter-Island vessel under construction Nicobar it is not possible to take up any departmental operation until the Inter-Island vessel under construction at present becomes available.

2. Vacant posts have been advertised in mainland papers and efforts are

being made to select suitable candidates from the mainland.

3. Pilot project scheme of Rubber Plantation is at present under consideration of the Government of India as the Rubber Board are not inclined to take it up as a result of a report given to them by their experts.

चीनी मिलें

*४६०. **श्री विभूति मिश्र:** क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश तथा पंजाब की चीनी मिलों में चीनी की रिकवरी दक्षिण की चीनी मिलों की अपेक्षा कम होती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि वहां चीनी की कम रिकवरी का यह कारण है कि ये मिलें बहुत पुरानी हैं;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार उपरोक्त राज्यों में स्थित मिलों को आधुनिकतम बनाने के बारे में एक योजना बनाने का विचार कर रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो योजना का स्वरूप क्या है?

खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री अ. म. धामस): (क) बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश और पंजाब के शर्करा कारखानों की शर्करा की उपलब्धि दक्षिण के कुछ राज्यों के शर्करा कारखानों की तुलना में कम है।

(ख) इस कम उपलब्धि का मुख्य कारण यह है कि बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश और पंजाब के गन्ने में शर्करा (सुक्रोज) तत्व अपेक्षाकृत कम होता है और कारखाने भी पुराने हैं।

(ग) और (घ). भारत में शर्करा उद्योग के अलाभकर एककों की समस्या की छानबीन करने के लिए हाल ही में, एक विशेषज्ञ समिति नियुक्त की गयी है। इस समिति ने पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश और उत्तरी बिहार के शर्करा कारखानों की जांच पड़ताल प्रारंभ