

**Central Arid Zone Research Institute,
Jodhpur**

*161. **Dr. Karni Singhji:** Will the Minister of **Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any success in the experiments carried out by the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur for arresting the march of the desert;

(b) whether the results are of general nature to be made applicable in other regions; and

(c) the places where large scale application of the results has been carried out and with what result?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) The Central Arid Zone Research Institute by careful experimentation has developed the techniques for arresting the further deterioration of condition in the desert regions and stabilisation of sand dunes, which were menacing habitations and agriculture. The techniques are: (1) Afforestation of shifting sand dunes, (2) afforestation of refractory sites with relatively fast growing exotic tree species, (3) raising avenue-cum-shelter belts, (4) re-seeding of natural grazing lands and (5) improved conservation farming practices. These measures have been found to be very successful in checking further deterioration of land by wind erosion, and many of the sand dunes which were threatening towns and villages are now flourishing forests.

(b) The results achieved are applicable to tropical arid and semi arid regions.

(c) The Institute has taken up afforestation of shifting dunes on a large scale on 2080 acres in 8 places located in Bikaner, Barmer, Jhunjunu and Churu districts having rainfall varying from 200 to 450 mm.

Crop Loan System

*162. **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:**
Shri H. C. Linga Reddy:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of **Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the introduction of crop loan system in the country; and

(b) how far this scheme has been instrumental in raising the food production of the regions where it has been tried out?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-7249/66.*]

(b) Credit under the crop loan system is related to the production requirements and is, therefore, a contributory factor in raising the food production. No systematic assessment of the increase attributable to this factor alone has, however, been made.

Co-operative Agricultural Credit

*163. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of **Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bulk of the beneficiaries of the co-operative agricultural credit so far being provided are rich and influential members of the rural community;

(b) whether the proposal that loans instead of being given only against assets should be given on the basis of the borrowers production needs, acreage and capacity to repay, has been given effect to; and