

co-operatives in the country which are dealing in the distribution?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a). No, Sir. Distribution of cheap foodgrains and fertilizers is done by the ordinary trade as well as by co-operatives. It is the policy of the State to give preference to co-operatives for this work.

(b) The information about the number of co-operatives is not available. It is however understood that in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, U.P., Delhi, Andhra (excluding Telengana) and Jammu & Kashmir, co-operatives are the sole distributors of fertilizers.

Distribution of Foodgrains

*69. { Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shri M. Elias:
Shri Keshava:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 933 on the 17th August, 1957 and state the progress made, if any, in the matter of formulation of a new scheme for the distribution of foodgrains in important towns of India through Co-operative Stores?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): The new scheme for the distribution of foodgrains through Co-operative Stores in the important towns of Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi, has not yet been finalised as detailed proposals from the State Governments concerned are awaited.

Construction of P. and T. Quarters

*70. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1073 on the 22nd August, 1957 and state:

(a) when the construction of quarters in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad for the employees of Post and Telegraph Department will commence; and

(b) the amount likely to be spent on this account during this year?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). *Hyderabad.*—The land has not yet come into the possession of the Department. The expenditure during the year will be limited to the cost of land, viz., about Rs. 1.4 lakhs.

Secunderabad.—C.P.W.D. authorities are taking the construction in hand. The probable expenditure during the year would be about Rs. 30,000.

Rural Credit

*71. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 768 on the 4th December, 1956 and state:

(a) whether any plan and machinery for recurring investigation, research and check up of the credit situation in the rural sector have now been evolved by the technical experts in the Department of Research and Statistics of the Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the precise nature of the plan and machinery set up?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The field investigations have been started in eleven districts from the various parts of the country.

Sixteen villages from each of the eleven districts have been selected for purposes of assessing significant changes on the "demand" side of credit including the outstanding debt and borrowings of different classes of cultivators. Further, sixteen primary agricultural credit societies as also an appropriate number of other types of Co-operatives, like marketing, processing etc. in each of these districts would be intensively studied with a view to assessing the nature of performance of co-operatives on the "supply" side of credit.