

Rural Credit

*1535. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State and the Central Governments have been asked to constitute relief and guarantee funds as recommended by the Rural Credit Survey Committee for writing off irrecoverable arrears of magnitude which threaten the stability of the co-operative credit structure, in pursuance of the Co-operative Banks Conference held on the 10th May, 1957, at New Delhi; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken so far in this connection?

The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Bihar have already created such a "Fund". Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh propose to set up the fund during the current year. The matter is under consideration in other States.

(ii) As regards constitution of a similar fund by the Central Government, it has been decided not to create such a fund but to give assistance to States from current resources of the Central Government.

Shri Sanganna: May I know what has been done regarding the difficulty created by rural indebtedness?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is not covered directly. We want to increase the capacity of the credit societies to give loans, but so far as indebtedness is concerned, it might indirectly be reduced. But that is not the purpose.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether the hon. Minister is in a position to give the total amount of irrecoverable rural credit which has been considered to be written off by the Rural Credit Survey?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the figures here. But probably we will get them.

Shri Jadav: What is the rural credit facility in terms of per capita percentage at present?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: As assessed by the Survey Committee, through the co-operative agencies, it was 3 per cent. of the total credit requirement of the farmers.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know the extent to which this fund has been utilised for the purpose of rural credit?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This fund is just being created. I do not think much utilisation has taken place so far.

Shri Shankaralya: May I know whether the constitution of the fund entails that these should be instituted at the Central Apex Societies or whether it could be in the primary co-operative societies and central district co-operative societies?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: These are to be created by the State Governments.

Overseas Shipping

*1536. **Shri Shivananjappa:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consultative Committee of Overseas Shipping Interests met in New Delhi on the 24th July, 1957;

(b) if so, the suggestions made to improve overseas shipping interests; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The meeting was called mainly to discuss ways and means of easing the congestion at the major ports. The Committee made several suggestions most of which have been accepted. These include provision of increased facilities for