

proposal is under the consideration of the Committee on Large-sized Mechanised Farms.

The question of obtaining assistance for running the farm from U.S.S.R., or any other country, does not arise at present.

Cooperative Movement in the Eastern States.

1583. Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha: Will the Minister of **Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation** be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that have been proposed to revitalise the co-operative movement of the eastern States in general and Bihar in particular;

(b) to what extent the co-operative movement is under official domination in different States;

(c) the co-operative movement of which State is most officialised; and

(d) what steps have been taken or are being taken to de-officialise the movement?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) I would refer to the reply to starred question No. 269 answered on the 30th April, 1962. The Government of Bihar has also since then formulated a detailed programme for revitalisation and liquidation. Proposals for giving additional financial assistance to the institutions have also been prepared by the Governments of Assam, West Bengal and Orissa. The Bihar Government is yet to finalise its proposals for additional assistance to the institutions.

(b) to (d). The extent and nature of official control over the movement varies from State to State depending upon the cooperative consciousness in general, the organisational strength of the movement, the availability of non-official leadership in requisite measure, the built in provisions in the Cooperative Societies Acts, Rules and

procedures, the working of these provisions in practice etc. The measures taken to de-officialise the movement are broadly as under:

- (i) Federal organisation of co-operatives are being promoted.
- (ii) A large scale programme of education of members, office-bearers and prospective members of cooperative societies has been launched. It is expected that the spread of cooperative education will result in a greater awareness in the non-officials of their responsibilities and rights.
- (iii) The responsibility for training and education of officials and non-officials has been handed over to the National Cooperative Union at the national level. State governments have been advised to hand over this work at the State level to the State Cooperative Unions.
- (iv) State governments have been requested that Ministers and officials holding position of responsibility in cooperative organisations should step down enabling non-officials to assume responsibility.
- (v) State governments have also been advised to remove the restrictive features of the laws, rules and procedures, which impede and include statutory provisions which would promote assumption of responsibility by non-officials.
- (vi) In some of the States certain functions of government in regard to cooperatives are being decentralised and given to Panchayati Raj institutions at the appropriate level.