

schemes for boring and deepening of existing wells, installation of pump sets and restoration of tanks.

(ii) Likewise, preference should be given to the schemes which would readily result in increased utilisation of irrigation facilities and in substantial increase in the acreage under irrigated crops.

(iii) The State Governments should organise intensive training programmes in soil conservation and research and investigations for problem areas in the State.

(iv) The panchayats should be empowered to enforce obligations of the cultivators to maintain the contour bunds and waterways in good repair.

(c) Yes.

(d) The State Agricultural Ministers approved these measures and promised to accelerate the pace of minor irrigation and soil conservation schemes.

(e) The other items discussed in the above mentioned meeting were:—

(i) Programme of improved seeds for foodgrains, cotton, oil-seeds and jute.

(ii) Promotional campaign for utilisation of fertilisers.

(iii) Locust situation and locust operations.

(iv) Plant protection measures other than locust operations.

(v) Bio-gas plant.

The State Agricultural Ministers promised their full cooperation in taking suitable measures for increasing agricultural production.

Panchayati Raj

610. **Shri Bishanchander Seth:** Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to amend the Panchayati Raj Act governing the working of Panchayats in Union Territories;

(b) if so, the reasons for such amendment; and

(c) when it is likely to be amended?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Tourist Development Council

611. { **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:
Shri Himat Singka:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the sixth meeting of the Tourist Development Council held recently at Ootacamund for the development of tourist industry; and

(b) the reactions of Government on such recommendations?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) At its sixth meeting held at Ootacamund, on the 28th and 29th of September, 1962, the Tourist Development Council made the following recommendations:—

(i) For dealing with Tourist matters, the State Governments should create a separate Department under the charge of a full-time senior officer, designated as Director Tourism.

(ii) To ensure better management and efficient functioning of the Tourist Bungalows and Rest Houses etc., the State Governments should set up a properly manned House keeping section, within their Tourist Department.