

is expected to increase the issue of credit to members.

Default in Repayment of Loan

1512. Shri M. Malaichami: Will the Minister of **Community Development and Co-operation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Advisory Committee of the Reserve Bank of India has considered the question of devising a built-in mechanism to tackle the problem of default on account of natural calamities and crop failures; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Standing Advisory Committee of the Reserve Bank of India has recently recommended that the co-operative credit structure should build up credit stabilisation funds both at the apex bank and the central bank levels so that these funds, with the assistance of the national agricultural credit stabilisation fund maintained by the Reserve Bank of India, may be utilised for converting overdue short-term loans into medium-term loans in areas affected by natural calamities and crop failures.

The Standing Advisory Committee has recommended that the credit stabilisation funds in the co-operative banking structure may be formed as below:

- (i) By each central and apex co-operative bank crediting 25 per cent of its net annual profits to these funds;
- (ii) By the state governments crediting all dividend in excess of 3 per cent on shares held by them in the co-operative credit institutions to these funds; and
- (iii) By the state governments (by the Union Government in the case of Union Territories)

making outright contributions partly by way of grants and partly by way of loans toward; these funds.

It has been suggested that the quantum of the initial government contribution may range between 5 per cent and 10 per cent of the outstandings of agricultural loans at the central bank level in the states depending mainly on their relative susceptibility to agricultural calamities.

These recommendations are being considered by the Central government.

Hostels for Children of Scavengers

1513. Shri Mohan Nayak: Will the Minister of **Social Security** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have sanctioned funds to start special hostels for children of scavengers and sweepers for their education;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned; and

(c) the number of hostels proposed to be started in the country State-wise?

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Social Security (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Funds have not been specifically provided for such special hostels. The Government of India have, however, requested State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to include this scheme in their State Plans.

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

Import of Seed Potatoes

1514. Shri Virbhadr Singh: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that permission has been granted to import seed potatoes from abroad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the import of potatoes will have

an adverse effect on the potato-growers in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) The import has become necessary owing to inadequate supply of virus-free seed potatoes from the hills to meet the entire demand of the country.

(c) All these factors are taken into account before taking a decision to import seed potatoes.

Nagpur-Bhandara Highway

1515. Shri Balkrishna Wasnik: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government have proposed the widening of the Nagpur-Bhandara road, a National Highway; and

(b) if so, the action being taken in the matter?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir. There was a proposal from the State Government to provide six feet wide shoulders in the first nineteen miles of this section of the National Highway.

(b) Due to paucity of funds it was not possible to sanction the proposal. The State Government were, however, advised to provide flat brick or stone metal shoulders in this reach out of the maintenance and repairs grant.

Indian Agricultural Research Institute

1516. Shri Balkrishna Wasnik: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of admissions for Ph.D. and M.Sc. courses if any, reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates in the Indian Agricultural Research Institute; and

(b) if so, the number of candidates of Scheduled Castes/Tribes selected and their percentage in the past three years?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) For admission to Ph.D. and M.Sc. courses at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, 15 per cent seats are reserved for the Scheduled castes and 5 per cent for Scheduled Tribes Candidates. In case suitable candidates from these categories are not available the seats reserved for them are filled from the open list.

(b) The number of candidates of Scheduled Castes/Tribes selected and their percentage in the past three years is indicated below:—

	Sche- duled Castes	Sche- duled Tribes	Total	Percentage of the candidates to the total admitted
(i) M. Sc.	9	4	13	6%
(ii) Ph. D.	5	2	7	4%

Sugar Ration Cards

1517. Shri Yashpal Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a letter published in the *Hindustan Times* of 17th September, 1964, that workers are charging-[4]- to Rs. 2 per head for preparation of ration cards for the supply of sugar in certain localities of Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the report is correct; and

(c) what action has been taken to put a check on this?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) Yes, Sir.