

factories to their respective employers which were once taken over by Government due to mismanagement; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of those who are going to be affected adversely due to the release of the factories?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The control is being withdrawn in pursuance of the Government policy to restrict the use of emergency legislation to defence or matters concerning the security of the State. If any interests are affected in a manner requiring action, Government will be able to use the powers available to it under permanent laws to take over affected units after following the prescribed procedure.

Forfeiture of Security Deposits in the last General Elections

65. Shri C. C. Desai: Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state the total amount collected by Government as a result of the forfeiture of security deposits of candidates who contested the recent General Elections but could not secure the minimum number of votes?

The Minister of Law (Shri Govinda Menon): The information has been called for by the Election Commission from the Chief Electoral Officers of the States.

Foodgrains Production in Orissa

66. Shri Sradhakar Supakar:
Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a shortage in the production of foodgrains in Orissa on account of the failure of rains last year; and

(b) if so, whether and to what extent Orissa has asked for any food aid from the Centre to meet the deficit?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) The final estimates of production are not yet available but according to tentative estimates the production in the current crop year will be less than in 1964-65.

(b) No food aid has been asked for from the Centre except the normal monthly quota of wheat.

Indo-German Agriculture Project in Kangra

67. Shri Yamuna Prasad Mandal: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether an Indo-German Agriculture Project has been launched in the Kangra District,

(b) whether it is a fact that under the agreement the two Governments have undertaken to carry out jointly extension work for the development of Kangra District and

(c) whether a similar agreement has been signed for a project in any other State?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) Yes, with effect from 7th February, 1967.

(b) Yes

(c) Yes. A similar agreement was signed for a project in the Nilgiris District Madras State.

Sugar Stocks

68. Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:

Shri K. Pradhami:
Shri Hirji:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is enough stock of sugar to meet the requirements of the country for one year; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the measures taken to increase the production and distribute evenly the available stock?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The reason is a severe fall in sugar production expected during the current year as compared with last year, on account of decline in production of sugarcane due to drought conditions at the time of sowing and period of growth and consequent diversion to gur and khandsari manufacture. Incentives were given in the shape of increase in price of sugarcane but these did not prove to be of much help as gur and khandsari producers could pay even higher prices. Action is being taken to ensure equitable distribution of available supplies during the rest of the year

Farm Credit to Farmers

69. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of providing farm credit to farmers on easy terms has been considered; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Farmers, who are members of the primary credit societies, can obtain short-term credit from these societies on the basis of their production requirements and subject to their re-

paying capacity. As far as practicable, loans for inputs like seeds and fertilizer are issued in kind. The procedures for issue of loans have been streamlined and simplified to enable the farmers to obtain the requirements of inputs and cash in time.

To cater to the needs of farmers, who are not members of cooperatives, Government continues to provide tac-cavi loans. Here also the procedures have been streamlined and simplified.

Sugar Rates

70. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar is made available to the consumers in different States at different rates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to bring uniformity in the rates and to reduce them?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This is due to differences in ex-factory prices of sugar which are fixed on a regional basis with reference to relevant cost schedules.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

Madras Harbour Explosion

71. Shri Seshayan: Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 584 on the 22nd February, 1966 and state:

(a) the further action taken on the report of the enquiry about the Madras Harbour Explosion on the 3rd June, 1965; and

(b) the compensation paid to those affected by the explosion?