

Change in Administrative and Institutional Frame-work for rapid and balanced Agricultural Growth

1870. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have urged the economic planners to suitably change the administrative and institutional frame-work for rapid and balanced agricultural growth; and

(b) if so, whether the new changes in planning would cover the entire gamut of agricultural activities ranging from research and crop production to marketing and distribution of farm produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) and (b). The Ministry of Agriculture is presently engaged in the formulation of proposals for the Fifth Five Year Plan. A number of Working Groups and Sub-Groups have been set up by the Ministry to look into the various aspects and fields of activities of this Ministry from research and crop production to marketing and distribution of farm produce. One of the terms of reference of these Groups is to identify the difficulties and problems and to suggest legislative, administrative institutional and other measures necessary for the removal of bottlenecks and acceleration of the tempo of progress in the coming years. It may be mentioned that some administrative and institutional changes are already being introduced. For example, on the recommendation of the National Commission on Agriculture made in its interim report on "Credit Services for Small and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers", it has been tentatively decided that Farmers' Service Societies for providing integrated credit service and supplies to this category of population

may be set up on an experimental basis in a few selected areas in consultation with the State Governments. Further, Government have recently decided to take over wholesale trade in wheat from the rabi marketing season 1973-74 to be followed by rice.

Appeal in U.N. for Food Aid

1871. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

SHRI P. GANGADEB:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has not appealed to U.N. for food aid; and

(b) whether U.N. has also stated that they have not received any appeal for international food aid this year despite shortage caused by drought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) and (b). No appeal has been issued to U.N. for food aid. However, a proposal for approaching the World Food Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations for assistance to the drought affected areas is under consideration.

Health Insurance Scheme

1872. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to introduce Health Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, when the scheme is likely to be brought into operation; and

(c) the main features thereof?