

short-term and long-term cooperative credit institutions. The views of the State Governments on the recommendations of the Committee are being ascertained.

Jaggery Board

2505. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state whether the Government propose to form a Jaggery Board?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): No, Sir.

Licence to increase Production by Rahuri Cooperative Sugar Mills Limited

2506. DR. BAPU KALDATY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rahuri Cooperative Sugar Mills Limited, District Ahmednagar (Maharashtra) has requested for licence to increase its production from 3250 tons to 6250 tons;

(b) whether the Director of Sugar, Maharashtra has objected to give licence;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) whether Government have accepted the claim of the mills for increased licence?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) After taking into consideration the recommendations of the Director of Sugar, Maharashtra, the State Gov-

ernment have recommended the expansion of the crushing capacity to 5000 tons. Some further information has been called for from the applicant sugar mill and the case would be considered on receipt of the information.

Appointment of Flood Commission

2508. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has appointed a Flood Commission to go into the causes of floods in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Commission is still to operate or is not functioning at all;

(c) if so, whether any report had been submitted by them so far; and

(d) what measures have been taken by his Ministry to prevent floods during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (c). Rashtriya Barh Ayog (National Commission on Floods) has been set up by the Government of India to review the flood protection measures undertaken in the country since 1954 and to evolve a coordinated, integrated and scientific approach to the flood control problem and draw a National Plan, fixing priorities which could be implemented in the near future. The Ayog started functioning in December, 1976 and has been requested to give their report in two years' time. The work of the Ayog is yet in the preliminary stages and it has not submitted any report so far.

(d) Undertaking flood protection and flood control schemes requires