

in the country is the shortfall of oilseeds production in 1979-80 due to drought and the resultant widening gap between demand and supply.

(b) For encouraging the production of oilseeds the Government have been announcing support prices for groundnut, rapeseed and mustard, soyabean and sunflower seeds. The support prices have been generally revised upwards every year to giving encouragement to oilseeds production. For the same purpose, State Governments and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India are required to undertake purchase operations at support price levels.

#### U.G.C. grants to colleges in backward and rural areas

3278. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure adopted by the University Grants Commission for giving grants to colleges situated in the backward areas and rural areas;

(b) whether Government propose to give more concessions and grants to colleges located in the remote areas; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANK-RANAND): (a) The Commission had relaxed the conditions of eligibility for development grants in favour of colleges located in backward and rural areas, during the Fifth Plan. According to the relaxed conditions, colleges in backward and rural areas offering three-year degree courses will be eligible for development grants if they have 300 students and 15 teachers against the normal requirement of 400 and 20 respectively. In the case of colleges offering two-year degree courses, the normal requirement of 270 students and 15 teachers is relaxed to 200 and 10 respectively.

(b) and (c). The criteria for providing general development assistance to colleges during the Sixth Plan have not so far been finalised by the Commission.

#### Opening of new branch Post Offices during Sixth Five Year Plan

3279. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many rural branch post offices are proposed to be opened in the 6th Five Year Plan and its State-wise break-up, if any;

(b) the proposed expenditure to be incurred by the Union Government on this score; and

(c) the number of branch post offices to be upgraded to the rank of Sub-Post offices alongwith State-wise break-up, if any?

#### THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN).

(a) and (b). The Five Year Plan for the period 1980-85 is under preparation. The number of rural post offices to be opened during this Plan period in the country and the expenditure to be incurred on this score will be known when the Plan is finalised with the approval of the Planning Commission. Circle-wise targets are assigned on a year to year basis and not for the 5 year period as a whole.

(c) Upgradation of extra departmental branch post offices to the level of sub post office is not a Plan Programme and, therefore, no targets are fixed. Such cases are decided from time to time on the basis of workload, financial results and other relevant considerations.

प्रोटेक्टिव कोऑपरेटिव थ्रिफ्ट एन्ड क्रेडिट सोसाइटी, दिल्ली

3280. श्री त्रिलोक चन्द्र . क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या प्रोटेक्टिव कोऑपरेटिव थ्रिफ्ट क्रेडिट सोसाइटी दिल्ली प्रशासन के सहकारी समितियों के रजिस्ट्रार के यहां मंजीकृत सोसाइटी है ;