

(d) if so, the time by which the Housing Finance Corporation is likely to be set up and to what extent it will help in improving the growing resources for the public sector-housing agencies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (c). The Seventh Plan document contained the proposal to set up a National Housing Bank, so as to facilitate the availability of housing finance. The National Council of Applied Economic Research has not suggested the setting of a Public Sector Finance Corporation.

(d) The decision to set up the National Housing Bank has been announced in the Budget for the Year 1987-88.

Meeting of Unorganised Labour in Agriculture

846. SHRI S. M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the first meeting of the unorganised labour in agriculture was convened by his Ministry recently, if so, the number of organisations invited to the meeting;

(b) the main problems discussed and the decisions arrived at ; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement the suggestions made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). A meeting of the Sub Committee of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of Ministry of Labour on Un-organised Agriculture Labour was convened by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on 6th February, 1987. Only members of the Sub-committee were invited to the meeting.

The future plan of action of the Sub-Committee was discussed in the meeting.

Shortcomings in Crop Insurance Scheme

847. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether any shortcomings in the Crop Insurance Scheme have been experienced since its introduction in 1979-80;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A pilot crop insurance scheme was introduced in the country from 1970-80. The following short-comings were noticed in the pilot scheme :

(i) guaranteed yield was fixed on the basis of average yield of last ten years;

(ii) high risk areas were not covered under the scheme ;

(iii) high level of non-indemnifiable limits, namely 30% for low risk areas and 40% for medium risk areas; and

(iv) the unit size of the area under the scheme was very large. The scheme was discontinued in March, 1985.

(c) With a view to broad-base the scheme and make it more meaningful for the farmers, a new Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme was introduced in the country from Kharif 1985 season. The scheme covered important cereals, namely, wheat, paddy and millets, and oilseeds and pulses. So far the scheme has been implemented by 16 States and 4 Union Territories.

Memorandum from Sugar Industry Workers

848. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :