

Development Corporation provides financial assistance to its area of operation. The assistance is on re-finance basis and is routed through the State Governments. Cooperatives in the State of Meghalaya are also entitled to N.C.D.C. assistance under its schemes in respect of the programmes which are duly recommended by the Government of Meghalaya.

The State has a two tier cooperative credit structure with Apex Cooperative Bank and the base level cooperative credit societies. There are 176 reorganised cooperative credit societies. Govt. of India is emphasising on building strong and viable base level cooperative credit societies with full-time paid and trained secretaries so that these societies could meet not only the credit needs but also provide other services to the farmers/borrowers.

For cooperatively underdeveloped States and in tribal areas in other States, Central assistance is provided to augment the resources of the cooperative banks by giving long-term loans to cover up the deficit in their internal resources. During 1978-79, a sum of Rs. 13,045 lakhs was released to Government of Meghalaya under the Central Sector scheme.

Land under Cultivation

9172. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:

SHRI A. R. BADRINARAYAN:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether 80,000 acres of more land was brought under cultivation in Bihar alone upto the end of March, 1979;

(b) if so, the methods adopted for the purpose;

(c) the land brought under cultivation in every State particularly in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) how much land is likely to be brought under cultivation during the next financial year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (d). Complete land utilisation statistics have not been received from Bihar either for the year 1977-78 or for 1978-79. However, area under forecast crops which accounts for a major part of the gross cropped area in different States indicates that in Bihar for 1977-78, there was an increase of about 3.5 lakh hectares over the corresponding level in 1976-77. This was mainly due to the increase in area benefited by irrigation in 1977-78. A statement is enclosed indicating the area under forecast crops during 1977-78 and 1976-77 along with the increase or decrease in 1977-78 for the major States of the country. No target has been fixed for bringing additional area under cultivation during the next financial year.

Statement

Total area under Forecast Crops* during 1977-78 and 1976 77—Major States

(Million hectares)

State	1977 78 (Final Estimate)	1976 77 (Revised)	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in 1977 78 over 1976 77
Andhra Pradesh	11 93	11 39	0 54
Assam	2 95	2 95	
Bihar	11 37	11 02	0 35
Gujarat	8 95	8 96	(—)0 01
Haryana	5 06	4 88	0 18
Himachal Pradesh	0 87	0 86	0 0
Jammu & Kashmir	0 87	0 86	0 01
Karnataka	10 00	8 65	1 35
Kerala	2 28	2 28	
Millets Palesh	0 19	19 84	0 35
Maharashtra	19 27	18 87	0 40
Oissa	7 32	6 78	0 54
Punjab	5 58	5 47	0 11
Rajasthan	15 79	15 92	(—)0 13
Tamil Nadu	7 25	6 69	0 56
Uttar Pradesh	24 85	24 75	0 10
West Bengal	7 47	7 47	0 20
All-India	163 37	158 78	4 59

*Comprises all foodgrains, groundnut, castorseed, sesamum, rapeseed & Mustard, linseed, vavilwar, nigerseed, coconut, cotton, jute, mesta, sannhemp (fibres), potatoes, sugarcane, black-pepper, chillies, ginger, turmeric, carriander, cardamom, arccanut, tobacco, guarsced, banana, topioca, sweet-potatoes and garlic.