

CO-OPERATIVE AND COLLECTIVE
FARMING

110. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the progress of co-operative and collective farming in India?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): A statement giving the available information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 31]

LAND RECLAMATION

111. **Shri Buchhikotaiab:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how far has the work of land reclamation, which is being carried on by the Central Tractor Organisation, proceeded?

(b) How much land has been reclaimed and where and how much more is under the plan of reclamation?

(c) Has the fertility of the soil so reclaimed been tested and if so, what are the results?

(d) When will the land reclaimed be available for agriculture?

(e) How will this land be cultivated and what will be the crops grown?

(f) To what extent is our food problem expected to be solved by the reclaimed land?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). A total area of 7,20,870 acres has so far been reclaimed by the Central Tractor Organisation in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Bhopal and Punjab. It is proposed to reclaim an additional area of approximately 9,80,000 acres by the end of the 1955-56 reclamation season in all of these States except Punjab.

(c) Tests to determine the fertility of reclaimed lands have not so far been carried out on an adequately large scale. However, crop-cutting experiments were conducted on some of the lands by the officials of the State Governments concerned, under the technical guidance of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The results of experiments conducted last year show an additional production of 10 maunds per acre from fallow lands, and 1 maund per acre from prior cultivated lands. Further experiments are being conducted to see whether these figures hold good as a general rule or whether the results obtained last year, especially in regard to cropped land, were sub-normal.

(d) Reclamation operations in the kans-infested areas extend from October of one year to the end of May next year. The reclamation operations are stopped about three weeks before the start of the monsoons, and it is possible to grow a Kharif crop immediately thereafter, although Kharif crops are not usually raised and the land is sown only in the following Rabi. There is a general belief that the raising of Kharif crops immediately after reclamation leads to re-infestation of Kans.

(e) In the Kans-infested areas, the land is mostly owned by private cultivators who, for the most part, cultivate their lands with bullock power and indigenous implements. In some cases mechanical means are also employed. In the Tarai area of Uttar Pradesh, where the Central Tractor Organisation has been doing jungle clearance work, a part of the reclaimed land has been allotted to displaced persons and ex-servicemen settled in co-operative colonies. In the rest of the Tarai area, State Farms have been established. Mechanical cultivation is carried on to a large extent in the State Farms.

The main crops grown are Rabi, Wheat, Barley, Gram and Oilseeds and Kharif—Paddy and Jowar.

(f) Other things being equal, an additional production of about one-third of a ton can be assumed in respect of newly reclaimed land. In respect of Kans-infested land on which a crop is grown notwithstanding the extra yield is still a matter for conjecture. Roughly 40 per cent. of the land reclaimed by the Central Tractor Organisation is new land.

COCONUT RESEARCH CENTRE,
KRISHNAPURAM

112. **Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the capital expenditure met by the Government of India in setting up a Coconut Research Centre in Krishnapuram, Travancore-Cochin State;

(b) the annual recurring expenses; and

(c) the annual return from the coconut plantation?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The Government of India has not incurred any capital expenditure on this Research Station. The Indian Central Coconut