

(c) Out of the above, two Assistant Managers and 2 Deputy Managers are qualified from the Madras Catering College, Madras.

State Jute Corporation

3899. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra State Government has been allowed to set up a 'State Cotton Corporation' of its own, a State Government undertaking;

(b) if so, whether the West Bengal Government will be similarly allowed to form a 'State Jute Corporation' of its own; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Public distribution system

3900. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a distinct improvement has been made during the last four months to tone up the public distribution system;

(b) if so, the number of fair price shops opened during this period;

(c) whether the off-take from the Central pool for these shops has increased; and

(d) whether efforts have been made to raid shops to unearth hoarded goods and if so, the number of such raids conducted during this period and the quantity of foodgrains recovered and the number of persons punished?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of fair price shops has increased from 2.40 lakhs in March, 1980 to 2.55 lakhs in June, 1980. Thus 15,000 fair price shops were opened during this period.

(c) No, Sir. During the period from March to June every year, the off-take of foodgrains from Central pool decreases due to arrival of new harvest in the open market.

(d) According to the information received from State Governments, extensive raids/inspections have been carried out during the last four months to enforce the storage control orders. The exact number of raids, the quantity of foodgrains recovered and the number of persons punished is being ascertained.

Agricultural Development Bank

3901. SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA:

KUMARI KAMLA
KUMARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish Agricultural Development Bank in the country for the benefit of farmers;

(b) the names of the States which are interested in this proposal; and

(c) the area that will be covered in the beginning?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have since agreed in principle to set up a National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. Details of the proposal are being worked out.

(b) and (c). The proposed bank's jurisdiction will cover all the States in the country.