

Agricultural indebtedness

1986. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have estimated the outstanding agricultural indebtedness; and

(b) if so, the estimates thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The All India Debt and Investment Survey (71-72) conducted by the Reserve Bank of India in collaboration with the National Sample Survey Organisation indicated the total liability of rural households at Rs. 3921 crores. Of this, the share of farmers with less than 5 acres of land and landless persons was Rs. 1910 crores.

The fourth decennial All India Debt and Investment Survey is scheduled to be conducted in July, 1981. This survey will relate to the agricultural year 1980-81. The total liability of the rural households as well as relative share of the groups like small farmers will be covered in this Survey.

Use of budgetary provisions for net work of rural godowns

1987. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

SHRI CHHANGUR RAM:

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Scheme to establish a national net work of rural godowns for storing produce of small and marginal farmers has failed to make appreciable headway and that only an amount of Rs. 15 lakhs was utilised as against the budgetary provision of Rs. 2 crore during 1979-80;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the progress achieved in this regard during 1980-81; and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) to (c). The scheme for Establishing a National Grid of Rural Godowns was finalised only in the middle of 1979-80. Before formulating projects, the State Governments/Union Territories were required to make an assessment of the requirements of different areas in this regard. They were also required to take preparatory steps like setting up of Co-ordination Committees and to acquire land. These are time consuming processes. Consequently, during 1979-80 proposals for construction of 136 godowns with 47,000 tonnes of storage capacity and involving an amount of Rs. 15.995 lakhs as the first instalment of the subsidy payable by the Central Government could only be sanctioned.

The matter is being pursued vigorously with the State Governments/Union Territories. In the current year, proposals for construction of 360 godowns with a total storage capacity of 2,97,250 tonnes at an estimated cost of over Rs. 10 crores have already been received.

Dead telephones in Muzaffarpur Bihar

1988. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 90 per cent telephones of Muzaffarpur (Bihar Circle) Exchange are dead and the remaining are sick according to the President of the District Telephone Users Association;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he has sent a telegram to him alleging rampant corruption resorted to by the officers in the exchange; and