

RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) A number of low-cost techniques have been evolved by the Central Road Research Institute for rural road construction.

(b) These techniques have been adopted in selected rural roads in many States.

(c) The savings will vary from State to State depending on local conditions.

Writing off of Agricultural Loan

3629. **SHRI R. N. RAKESH:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new directions have been issued by the Central Government to the States not to write off agricultural loans of the farmers;

(b) whether Government have also indicated that if the practice continued it would lead to total collapse of agricultural credit system;

(c) if so, the reaction of States in this regard; and

(d) the number of States which have written off the loans and the details regarding the number of farmers who have been benefited so far due to the same and what is the total amount involved, therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (d). The Government of India are of the firm view that any measure involving blanket write off of institutional loans tends to vitiate the climate for recovery, encourage wilful default and undermine the viability of credit institutions. The need for adopting a cautious approach has been indicated to the State Governments both by the Reserve Bank of India and the Government of India. The frame work for the Sixth plan approved by the National Development Council in August, 1980 and February, 1981, respectively also refer to the serious implications of write-off of institu-

tional loans. The reactions of some States, so far received, indicate that they share Government of India's concern in this regard and that they would take steps to improve the recovery of overdues.

As indicated in the answer to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2646 replied on the 9th March, 1981, the State Governments of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu decided to write off institutional loans in their states, covering 7.81 lakhs small holders and 4.52 lakhs small farmers respectively. The amounts involved in the write off of loans by the Government of Tamil Nadu were Rs. 42.00 crores (as on October, 1980) and by the Government of Maharashtra Rs. 49.00 crores (as on July, 1980). Full details of the decisions to write off of loans in respect of other States are not available. However, as indicated in the answer to the Lok Sabha unstarred Question No. 2400 replied on the 7th December, 1981 the State Governments of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal had introduced measures of relief such as waiver of interest on loans, rescheduling of loans, waiver of penal interests.

Requirements and Production of Edible Oils

3630. **SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL:** Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present requirement and production of edible oils in the country;

(b) the amount spent on imports of edible oils during the last two years; and

(c) whether Government have made any study about the prospects of non-conventional oil like rice bran oil, soyabean and oil of tree origin; the assistance proposed to be given by Government for tapping the potential of non-conventional oil?