

8 years to 16 years which reduces considerably the financial burden on the entrepreneurs.

Strike in Institute of Hotel Management Catering and Nutrition, Pusa, New Delhi

5727. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether students of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Pusa, New Delhi went on a token strike recently;

(b) if so, their demands and the steps taken to look into them; and

(c) the steps taken to modernise the academic course to meet the needs of the industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The students have demanded transfer of the Institute from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation. This demand has been examined from time to time but the transfer has not been considered necessary.

(c) The Institute has revised the syllabus for the 3-year diploma course in hotel management, catering and nutrition in consultation, *inter alia* with the representatives of the hotel industry.

Agriculture Credit Societies

5728. SHRI SUDHIR KUMAR GIRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agricultural Credit Societies in the country and the number of villages covered by such societies;

(b) the total volume of credit offered year-wise by such societies during 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to augment the volume of such agricultural credit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The total number of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies in the country, as on 30th June, 1980, was 94,495. The total number of villages covered by these societies during 1978-79, the latest year for which the information is available, was 5,65,625.

(b) The total volume of credit provided by the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies during 1978-79, 1979-80 and 1980-81 is given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

1978-79	1979-80 (Prev.)	1980-81 (Prov.)
1,458	1,465	1,591

Note:—The cooperative year (July-June) 1981-82 is yet to close.

(c) The State Governments, who have the administrative and supervisory control over the co-operatives, are taking steps for supporting the co-operatives through legislative measures, financial support, technical services and creating a climate to increase the flow of credit. The Government of India supports these societies, through the State Governments by providing financial help under various plan schemes.

Transfer of modern technology to fishermen

5729. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fishermen in the coastal State of Gujarat are unaided by modern technology;

(b) if so, whether Government have any plan to transfer technology to the fishermen in all aspects of fisheries including procession, packaging, training and monitoring of fisheries resources; and