

already been passed by the State Legislatures and the Bills are awaiting the assent of the President. The Government of Maharashtra have drafted their Bill which will be/has been introduced in the current Session of the State Legislature. In Gujarat drafting of the Panchayati Raj Bill has been undertaken. In Bihar a Bill has been introduced in the State Legislature.

Kerala has passed the Panchayats Act and has brought the whole State under a uniform system of Panchayats. Constitution of higher level bodies is expected to be taken up only after the Panchayats have functioned for some time in the State.

In West Bengal Panchayats are now being constituted according to a phased programme.

Panchayats are functioning in Jammu and Kashmir. There are block Panchayat Boards which function in an advisory capacity.

As regards Union Territories, Panchayats have been established in Himachal Pradesh and Delhi. In Delhi the erstwhile Block Development Committees have been reconstituted into Panchayat Samitis. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Panchayat Regulation has been promulgated and Panchayats are proposed to be established in certain areas of the Islands soon. The Uttar Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1947 has been extended to Manipur and Tripura and preparations are underway for setting up Panchayats. Pondicherry and Laccadive and Minicoy Islands do not have Panchayats.

Co-operative Training

1769. Shri Jadhav Narayan Jadhav: Will the Minister of Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the study team appointed by Government has recommended that Reserve Bank should withdraw from co-operative training; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to implement the recommendations of this Study Team?

The Deputy Minister of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) No. The Study Team has recommended the replacement of the existing central committee for co-operative training by a National Board for Co-operative Training. It has however recommended that the National Board should have 2 representatives from the Reserve Bank.

(b) This and other recommendations of the Study Team are under examination of the Government. Decisions will be taken after consulting the State Ministers of Co-operation in a Conference scheduled for October, 1961.

Export of Frogs

1770. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mass destruction of frogs for export to foreign countries has seriously affected the crops in some parts of the country as the frogs kill a number of insects that are injurious to the crops;

(b) whether any investigation has been made in this direction; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No, Sir.

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

Polio

1771. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of polio cases in the country during the year 1960;

(b) the number of cases during 1961 so far and during the corresponding period, in 1960; and

(c) the steps taken to check this disease?