

of foodgrains which constitute a major proportion of agricultural production, about 15 million tonnes of rice and wheat are purchased by the Food Corporation of India and State Agencies at procurement prices which are being fixed at a remunerative level. Similarly, over 35 per cent of cotton is being purchased at remunerative prices by the cotton corporation of India, State Cooperative Marketing Federation of Maharashtra, Gujarat etc. As regards sugarcane, about 55 per cent of the national production of sugar is in the cooperative sector and benefits in the form of remunerative prices of sugarcane are available to the cane growers. Jute Corporation of India has also been purchasing raw jute (upto 21 per cent of production in 1981-82). The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and State Cooperative Organisations undertake market support operations in respect of commodities like pulses, oilseeds onions and potatoes as and when necessary. Generally, wherever well-organised regulated markets are functioning the return to the producers on the quantity sold is reasonably good. Uptil March end last year, 5430 regulated markets including principal markets and sub-market yards have been established in the country. Primary Cooperative Marketing Societies have been organised to enhance the bargaining capacity of the farmers to secure a reasonable price for their produce. Moreover, dissemination of market news and intelligence increases the awareness among the farmers and helps them to make marketing decisions. With continuing efforts at increasing the number of regulated markets and expanding the operation of cooperative marketing organisations and other public sector agencies the farmers' share in prices prevailing in terminal markets is expected to improve further.

Credit Assistance Rendered by Cooperative Bank of Sikkim

7010. SHRI P. M. SUBBA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of credit assistance rendered by the Cooperative Bank of Sikkim:

(b) the details of the beneficiaries of the loans during the years 1982-83 and 1983-84 :

(c) whether Government propose to take over the management of that Bank :

(d) whether a Managing Director has been appointed for the Bank, if not, the reasons therefor :

(e) whether there are any defaulters in repayments in respect of the loans disbursed; and

(f) the steps being taken to make the bank function more effectively ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (f) The Sikkim State Cooperative Bank Ltd., is to be established in the State of Sikkim by converting the State Bank of Sikkim for which necessary legislation has already been passed. The Sikkim State Cooperative Bank has not yet commenced Banking operations and the question of appointment of a Managing Director and disbursement of loans will arise only when the bank becomes operative. At present the Reserve Bank of India is conducting an inspection of the State Bank of Sikkim to ascertain its assets and liabilities.

General Body Meeting of ICAR Society

7011. DR. A. U. AZMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether General Body meeting of ICAR Society was held in March, 1984 and outside participation was limited :

(b) the dates of holding each General Body meeting of ICAR Society from 1980 to 1984 with approved membership composition and reason for holding in March, 1984 when States' budget sessions interfere ;