

ment of workshops in the rural areas for repair, maintenance and hiring of agricultural machinery such as tractors, drilling rigs, plant protection and irrigation equipment and for taking up such allied activities as sale of spare parts, inputs etc. which would provide added income and work.

Investments per centre may range from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 2 lakhs depending upon the type and size of activity which would be met by the entrepreneurs out of loan from State Bank of India, nationalised banks and other financial institutions. To assist the entrepreneurs in the setting up of the centres, the Government of India has also earmarked imported tractors and other agricultural machinery for priority allotment to the centres. The State Governments/Agro-Industries Corporations have also been requested to assist entrepreneurs in formulating viable schemes and in securing loans from the financial institutions.

(c) Initially it is proposed to set up 500 centres on a pilot basis throughout the country. The number of centres would be increased depending upon the experience and response from entrepreneurs. The scheme envisages establishment of 20 to 30 centres in the bigger States; 15 to 20 centres in the smaller States and 3 to 10 centres in the Union Territories in the initial stages.

(d) The finance required for procurement of machinery etc. for establishment of Agro-service centres is to be obtained by the individuals from the State Bank of India, Nationalised Banks and other financial institutions. The Ministry of Industry, Government of India, is implementing a scheme, "Training of and Assistance to Engineer Entrepreneurs". Under this scheme 3 months training with free board and lodging of Rs. 250/- p.m. in lieu thereof, and subsidy of about 4 1/2% on the interest charges on the loans advanced by the commercial banks are paid. A

provision of Rs. 3 crores has been made during IV Plan for the training programme and financial incentives under the above scheme. The scheme for establishing Agro Service Centres of Agriculture Ministry also qualify for assistance under the above scheme and steps are being taken to set up new centres under this scheme.

#### Allocation to States for Relief to Unemployed Persons

1202. SHRI N. K. SINHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allotted to each State for relief to the unemployed persons as per vote-on-account budget 1971-72; and

(b) the suggestion made by the Central Government to the State Governments for spending the amount in any particular manner?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) Presumably the reference is to the Crash Scheme for Rural Employment for which an outlay of Rs. 50 crores has been provided during the current year 1971-72. Allocations to the State Governments and Union Territories are to be made at the rate of Rs. 12.50 lakhs per district.

(b) In the guidelines issued by the Department of Community Development to the State Governments and Union Territories for formulation and implementation of the schemes, it has, inter-alia, been suggested that :-

(a) Careful attention should be paid to the proper identification of areas to ensure that (i) additional employment opportunities through these schemes reach out to those areas where they are needed most, and (ii) areas selected are those where appropriate works of labour intensive nature can be fruitfully undertaken and the work projects proposed in them are

really additional to the scheme; and programmes that are being implemented under the normal plans.

(b) The work projects undertaken in the area have to be basically labour intensive; they must also be backed adequately by considerations of productivity in relevance to the overall development needs of the area.

(c) In selecting workers for employment, families in which no one is employed are to be given priority.

(d) Since the Crash Scheme seeks to alleviate the problem of unemployment locally, the work projects under the Scheme should not encourage migration of labour to the project sites from distant areas.

(e) The wages paid to the workers should correspond to the locally prevailing off-season rates not exceeding in all Rs. 100 per head per month. An amount not exceeding a fourth of the total wage-bill for any project will be available for materials and equipment for that project to ensure its productivity and durability.

#### Import of wheat under PL-480

1203. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :  
SHRI S.M. KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total wheat U.S. will supply to India under PL-480 during 1971;

(b) how much has already been supplied and how much is still to be supplied;

(c) whether in 1970 the PL-480 wheat was much less than that of 1969; and

(d) whether India still needs wheat to be imported and if so, how much ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI  
ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) The  
P.L. 480 Agreement of 1-4-71 provides

for a supply of about 1.57 million tonnes of wheat all of which is likely to be shipped in 1971. There is also a possibility of some additional quantity becoming available.

(b) Out of the above, about 0.29 million tonnes has already been received in India. The rest is yet to come.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) For 1971, the quantity of wheat required to be imported, for consumption and buffer stocks, has been assessed at about 3 million tonnes.

#### Interim Report and Formation of Sub-committee on Agricultural Development of National Commission on Agriculture

1204. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :  
SHRI S.M. KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission on Agriculture proposes to submit certain interim reports to the Government;

(b) if so, the subjects of reports and their recommendations;

(c) how long the Commission will take to complete its work;

(d) whether the Commission has decided to set up five new sub-committees on various aspects of agricultural development; and

(e) if so, the purposes thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI  
ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes.

(b) As per the terms of its reference, the Commission was asked to make interim recommendations on the following items :—

1. Agricultural Research and Extension.