

Agency for research work in fruit industry

1205. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :
SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up an agency for carrying out research work on the fruit industry in the country;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank has also decided to assist in setting up fruit industry in Assam; and

(c) if so, the main purpose of setting up the agency?

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

(a) No sir.

(b) The proposal for horticultural development and processing of fruits was one of the proposals looked into by a World Bank Agro-Industries Reconnaissance Mission in February, 1971. A detailed project will be prepared on the basis of the Report of the Mission which is yet to be received.

(c) Does not arise.

Central Assistance for Exploitation of Sea-Food available in Kerala Coast

1206. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration to finance the State Fisheries Corporation in Kerala for intensely exploiting the sea-food available in Kerala coast; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the decisions taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) :
(a) and (b). There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government for financial assistance to the State Fisheries Corporation in Kerala.

Winding up of State Farm in Hirakud.

1207. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Farm in Hirakud is going to be wound up as it is running at a deficit; and

(b) if so, the reasons for this deficit in this particular farm, while most of the other farms run by State Farms Corporation had shown good results?

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

(a) and (b). In view of the consistent and continued agitation by the local tenants displaced by the construction of Hirakud Dam, cultivation operations at the farm have been severely hampered resulting in huge losses in running the farm from year to year. The State Government have been requested to offer an alternative site on the same terms and conditions already agreed to where cultivation operations could be carried on without any hindrance. In case the State Government is not in a position to offer any such alternative site it is possible that the Farm might be wound up. However, a final decision in the matter will be taken after hearing from the State Government.

Shifting of Factories to places where Trade Union Movement is weak

1208. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:
Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Government to enact Central legislation for making uniform minimum wage for handloom workers all over India; and

(b) whether industrialists are now shifting their factories to places where the Trade Union movement is weak and cheap labour available, from traditional industrial centres where the workers have established their rights?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) No.

(b) No such instances have been brought to the notice of Government.

Area and Distribution of Khas Lands in States

1209. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of Khas lands in each State at present available for cultivation;

(b) when Government propose to direct the States to distribute them; and

(c) the main features of the scheme of the proposed distribution of these lands?

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

(a) to (c). About one million hectare of land has been declared surplus by the States for distribution as a result of imposition of ceiling and about half of this area has been distributed as indicated below :

| Name of State | Surplus Area (in 000' hectares) | Area distributed (in 000' hectares) |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| West Bengal | 354 | 140 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 180 | 180 |

| | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|
| Maharashtra | 152 | 47 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 97 | 53 |
| Punjab | 71 | 25 |
| Haryana | 73 | 22 |
| Rajasthan | 24 | 5 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 34 | 7 |
| Gujarat | 20 | 10 |
| Tamil Nadu | 11 | 9 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 30 | 00 |
| Assam | 27 | 00 |
| Total | 1073 | 500 |

As the implementation of ceiling legislation is still in progress in most of the States it is not possible to give any precise estimate of the total area of land which would become available for distribution on completion of implementation of ceiling laws. The lands which are becoming available on imposition of ceiling on holdings is being distributed to landless agriculturists and other categories of persons eligible for allotment.

Besides the distribution of surplus land which become available on imposition of ceiling, State Governments have been distributing land in the normal course through their Revenue Departments or Gaon Sabhas. So far 5.7 million hectares of waste land have been distributed by various States as indicated below :

| State | Extent of waste land distributed (in 000' hectares) |
|----------------|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 880 |
| Assam | 121 |
| Bihar | 202 |
| Gujarat | 250 |
| Kerala | 20 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1200 |
| Maharashtra | 320 |