

take stringent measures including coercive steps against defaulting sugar mills to enforce timely payment by sugar factories of cane price arrears to cane growers.

(c) In Uttar Pradesh, recovery certificates have been issued on the basis of position of cane price dues as on 15-4-1971. Eight sugar factories have been placed under receivership. Collectors have announced auction of six sugar factories. The owner of one sugar mill was put under revenue lock up for holding up payment of cane price dues. In Bihar legal steps viz. criminal and certificate proceedings have been started against the defaulting mills which do not make payment on the demand of the cane growers. Tamil Nadu Government have reported that they are making every effort to persuade the sugar factories to clear off the arrears early, but the progress was slow due to low off-take of levy sugar. With the removal of controls over price and distribution of sugar the position is likely to improve.

Rise in Price of Sugar in Open Market

1223. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the price of sugar in the open market registered increase in the month of April, 1971 :

(b) if so, the reasons for the same ; and

(c) the steps taken to bring down the price ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) There was some increase in the price of sugar in the open market during April 1971.

(b) The increase in price was mainly the effect of increase in price of levy sugar allowed by the Allahabad High Court, in their interim orders, to sugar factories

in Uttar Pradesh which challenged in that Court the price of levy sugar fixed by Government.

(c) Control on price, distribution and movement of sugar have been removed with effect from 25th May, 1971 and a larger quantity of 4.5 lakh tonnes of sugar has been released for sale from 29th May, 1971.

Implementation of Electricity Wage Board Recommendations in Uttar Pradesh

1224. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations of the wage Board for Electricity workers have been implemented in Uttar Pradesh ; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the same ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) An order enforcing the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Electricity Undertakings was issued by the Government of Uttar Pradesh under section 3 of the U. P. Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, on the 11th February, 1971.

(b) After issue of the above order, certain difficulties were pointed out by employers of major electricity undertakings such as the U. P. State Electricity Board, M/s Martin Burn Ltd, etc. These are being considered by the State Government.

Streamlining the working of Community Development Projects

1225. SHRI R. S. PANDEY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether community blocks set up in the country under the Community Development programme are proving to be very expensive as lot of expenditure is being in-

owned on them, whereas they are not proving very useful to achieve the set objectives ;

(b) whether Government have recently reviewed the working of the community blocks and taken any steps to streamline their working in order to improve their utility in the agriculture and farming in the country ;

(c) whether most of the State Governments are not in favour of continuance of these blocks and have recommended their closure ; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by Government about the future set up and working of these community blocks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) . (a) and (b). It would not be correct to say that the Community Development programme is proving very expensive. It provides the basic extension organisation and execution agency at the block level for most rural development programmes, particularly the Agricultural Production Programme. Effecting improvement in agriculture is a major objective of Community Development. The question of streamlining the working of the programme is under constant review and one of the steps under consideration is the appointment of a Commission.

(c) Community Development Programme is being implemented throughout the country and no State has indicated any desire to discontinue the programme .

(d) Does not arise.

Funds for Guide Service and assistance to Farmers from Agricultural Aresearch Institutes

1236 SHRI R. S. PANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agricultural Research Institutes in the country are affording any guide service to the farmers to teach them ways and means for the use of scientific farming implements to raise their production and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether these bodies are also helping the farmers in the procurement of modern farming implements and better quality seeds etc. ; and

(c) whether government proposes to allot adequate funds to these institutes and if so, the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE). (a) Yes, Sir.

Farmers' Days are periodically arranged by the agricultural research institutes including agricultural universities. The agricultural implements and machinery evolved at the institutes are demonstrated there.

In addition, under the National, Demonstrations Scheme in the 4th Plan of the India Council of Agricultural Research, agricultural research institutes and agricultural universities have been made responsible for conducting first line demonstrations all over the country. The agricultural engineers engaged in the Programme in the research institutes or agricultural universities demonstrate, *Inter alia*, the use of suitable machinery and implements and guide the farmers on their related problems .

(b) Direct procurement of improved implements and supply to farmers does not come under the purview of the research institutes. However, farmers are given the technical advice and guidance on availability of implements, their suitability and performance.

(c) In the 4th plan, the agricultural institutes including the agricultural universities have been strengthened for research and training on agricultural implements and