

Bengal after March, 1967 upto-date and how much of land has been distributed among the peasants ; and

(b) the main obstacles in taking over of surplus land and its distribution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) The total area of agricultural land vested in the State comes to 3,59,000 hectares upto 31st May, 1971 including 110,000 hectares vested after March, 1967. The total area of land so far distributed among the landless cultivators and the small farmers holding less than one hectare of land comes to about 1,40,000 hectares.

(b) The most important single factor which hampers the taking over of surplus land and its distribution is the very large number of civil suits and civil rules and injunctions issued by the Courts. Concerted efforts are being made to oppose issue of injunctions ex-parte and to get the injunctions vacated atleast in cases involving 10 acres or more of vested agricultural land.

#### Strike by Cinema Workers in West Bengal

7079. SHRI MADHURYA HALDAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the strike launched by the Cinema workers in cinemas of Calcutta and Behala (West Bengal) and the resultant closure of nearly 100 cinemas ;

(b) if so, the main demands of the cinema workers ; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to reopen the closed cinemas and meet the workers' demand ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) (a) to (c) : The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House after it is received.

#### Import of Milk Processing Plants and Their Capacity

7080. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to State :

(a) the names of milk processing plants

imported in the country during the last three years ; and how many have been received as gifts ;

(b) the number of them working at rated capacity and how many at their half-rated capacity ; and

(c) the reasons for not working at full rated capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) (a) to (c) : The material is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha when received.

#### Fall in Average Daily Consumption of Milk in India

7081. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether with the largest proportion of cattle population in the world, the average daily milk consumption in India is among the lowest with a uniform tendency of declining yearly ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) (a) and (b) The average *per capita* availability of milk in India in 1968-69 was of the order of 105 gms. per day, which is low when compared to similar figures for developed countries. However, the *per capita* availability of milk in India compares very favourably with the figures for countries in Asia and South-East Asia.

Although the production of milk has increased from 20 million tonnes in 1965-66 to 21.6 million tonnes in 1968-69, the rate of growth of production of milk was much below the rate of growth in demand for milk. The *per capita* availability of milk has gone down for the following reasons :

The increase in milk production from 1965-66 to 1968-69 has been offset by the increase in human population.

The low purchasing capacity of the majority of the people is also a factor which has to be reckoned.

The Government are aware of the acute shortage of milk and are taking steps to increase milk production in cooperation with the State Governments.