

KAR) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Functions of Food Corporation of India and Department of Food

4232. **SHRI CHELLACHAMI** : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the functions of Food Corporation of India and Department of Food are more or less the same ;

(b) whether the Food Corporation of India instead of serving the public interest in an economical way incurs very heavy overhead expenditure and thus incurs heavy loss ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to appoint a Committee to inquire into the functioning of Food Corporation of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. While the Department of Food has the overall responsibility for formulating food policy of the Government and promulgating regulatory measures and ensuring their implementation, the Food Corporation of India functions as the sole executive agency of the Central Government in the fields of foodgrains and other foodstuffs. In addition to these the Food Corporation of India has undertaken some other responsibilities such as handling and sale of fertilisers imported on Government account and setting up of food processing units.

(b) No, Sir. The Corporation seeks to serve both the farmer and the consumer—the former by extending massive price support at fixed procurement prices and the latter by holding the price lines through distribution of foodgrains at fixed issue prices. The Central Government is reimbursing the losses incurred in Central transactions as the Central issue prices do not cover the entire economic cost of the grain and contain an element of subsidy to the consumer. The overhead expenditure much of which is by way of interest on Government loans and bank overdrafts, railway freight, taxes, mandi charges and other statutory levies is constantly reviewed by the Government and kept at the minimum possible level. The Corporation has not incurred any loss since it started regular operations.

(c) No, Sir.

Development of a New Wheat Seed by Punjab Agriculture University

4233. **SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA** : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Punjab Agricultural University has developed a new wheat seed which is better than the best including Mexican variety ;

(b) if so, the name of the new variety of seed ; and

(c) in what way the new seed is better than the other high-yielding varieties of wheat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) A number of new varieties coming out of the wheat breeding programmes of Punjab Agricultural University and other centres are undergoing comparison for yield and other characters in the All India Coordinated trials. It is too early to consider the results of these trials as sufficiently final to claim superiority of particular varieties over the present dwarf wheats.

(b) Among the promising varieties from Punjab Agricultural University were WL 212, WG 357 and WG 377 in the trial last year (1970-71), and this year the variety WG 461 has been added. Their superiority can be confirmed only after further trials.

(c) Does not arise.

Central Assistance for Boosting Agricultural Production in Tamil Nadu

4234. **SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA** :
SHRI BHUVARAHAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 260 on the 3rd June, 1971, regarding World Bank loan for Special Land Development Scheme in Tamil Nadu and state :

(a) whether Central Government will also provide similar assistance to Tamil Nadu to boost up agricultural production ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b). All assistance including loans provided for projects, (whether for Tamil Nadu or for any other State), that are based upon agreements with the World Bank, is assistance from sources obtained by the Government of India. Therefore, the Tamil Nadu project agreed to by the I.D.A. is as much as Centrally assisted project as any other, and it is to be hoped that it would lead to higher agricultural production in that State.

Setting up of Vigilance Enquiry Re :
complaints of corruption in
distribution of Steel

4235. SHRI S. N. MISRA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Vigilance Enquiry has been set up in respect of certain employees of his Department regarding their unaccounted means and wealth ; and

(b) if so, the names of officers against whom such Vigilance Enquiries have been set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) :

(a) No, Sir. No such enquiry has been ordered against any employees of Steel.

(b) Does not arise.

Installation of Tube-Wells in Bihar

4236. SHRI R. P. YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Tube-wells installed during the Third Plan and in the Fourth Plan so far in the State of Bihar ;

(b) whether large tracks of land still depend solely on rain water ; and

(c) the steps being contemplated to instal large number of Tube-Wells in the State of Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) 2046 number of tube-wells were installed during the Third Plan and 12,729 numbers have been installed by the end of April, 1971 of which 3,805 tube-wells were installed in the first two years of the Fourth Plan (1969-70 and 1970-71).

(b) According to the latest statistics available for the year 1967-68, about 8.0 m. hectares of cultivated land in Bihar depend solely on rain water.

(c) The steps being contemplated to instal a large number of tubewells include (a) giving maximum priority to State tubewells in the allocation of public sector funds available for minor irrigation under the State Plan ; (b) Mobilising financial resources from Land Development Banks, Agricultural Refinance Corporation and Central Cooperative Banks for private tubewells ; (c) Setting up adequate groundwater organisation in the State for looking after expanded programme of Tube-wells ; and (d) strengthening arrangements for groundwater surveys and investigations in the State.

Setting up of Credit Institutions to provide
Credit to Borrowers from Rural and
Agrarian Sectors

4237. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up credit institutions of a different pattern than the commercial banks to give credit to borrowers from rural and agrarian sectors :

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme proposed in this regard ;

(c) whether an Expert Committee appointed by the Agricultural Commission headed by Shri T. A. Pai had gone into this matter ; and

(d) if so, the recommendations made by that Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.