

about illegal eviction of bargadars, they should take firm action to prevent such eviction, to prosecute offending landowners and to restore land to the bargadars.

Nationalisation of Sugar Industry

7820. SHRI ANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have dropped the idea of nationalising sugar industry ; and

(b) if not, by which year the nationalisation will be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b). So far as the all-India aspect of the question of nationalisation of sugar industry is concerned, Government have already appointed a Sugar Industry Inquiry Commission to undertake a comprehensive examination of the working of the sugar industry and various problems relating thereto, especially in the context of the demand for its nationalisation. Government will examine the matter further on receipt of the report of the Commission.

Soviet Aid for starting of Cooperative Farms in Kerala

7821. SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Soviet Union had agreed to finance a plan of Kerala Government for starting cooperative farms in the State ;

(b) if so, the salient points of the agreement ; and

(c) when the plan is likely to be implemented ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA) : (a) No assistance has been sought for from the Soviet Union for starting cooperative farms in Kerala.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Abolition of Forced Labour

7822. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the

Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are some places where the practice of forced labour in vogue ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to abolish this practice for the benefit of the labourers ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) The Constitution of India prohibits traffic in human beings and *begar* and other similar forms of forced labour except imposition of compulsory service for public purposes. The system of forced labour is not in vogue anywhere in the country. However, the possibility of stray cases of forced labour and of bonded labour cannot be ruled out.

(b) The Central and the State Governments have taken various legislative and executive measures to combat the evil. As bonded labour is primarily due to economic backwardness, efforts are being made to remedy the evil through raising the economic standard of the people.

Lift Irrigation in Manipur and Survey of Underground Water in Imphal West Zone Irrigation purposes

7823. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Manipur are considering the introduction of lift irrigation in Manipur, utilizing underground water especially in Imphal West Sector ;

(b) if so, the main features thereof ; and

(c) whether Government have made extensive survey of underground water in the Imphal West Zone for irrigation purposes ?

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