

Tobacco Development Council and the Government of India periodically. As a result of the implementation of this Scheme since 1966-67 cultivation of Virginia Flue-cured Tobacco has been developed on 37,545 acres of land in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Exploratory trials are also being conducted in the States of Maharashtra, Bihar and Orissa.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Results of the preliminary studies conducted for ascertaining the prospects of producing good quality of V. F. C. Tobacco at the Tobacco Research Station, Dinhatta during 1961-65 seasons as also in the cultivators' fields in Cooch-Bihar and Jalpaiguri Districts were not encouraging.

#### Commission on Agricultural Labour

7898. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to appoint a Commission to study the conditions of the agricultural labourers in the country and to suggest measures for their welfare and well-being ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b). Government have already set up a National Commission on Agriculture, one of whose terms of reference is to investigate and report on the problems of small farmers and agricultural labour.

#### Implementation of settlement with Cantonment Board Employees

7899. SHRI A. N. VIDYALANKAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry have received repeated complaints that the Defence Ministry is not implementing the settlement dated the 22nd November, 1966 between the Cantonment Boards and their employees ; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) The Ministry of Defence, who are concerned, have intimated that they are not aware of any settlement dated November 22, 1966 between the Cantonment Boards and their employees.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Acceage of Khas and Benami Land distributed to Landless and small peasants in West Bengal

7900. SHRI DINESH JOARDER : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total acreage of khas and benami land distributed to the landless and small peasants in the Districts of Burdwan and 24-Parganas of West Bengal during 1969-70 and whether part of the same was again taken forcible possession by the Jotedars and Landlords in 1971 ; and

(b) the steps Government are contemplating to protect these poor peasants in retaining those land in their possession ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha when received.

#### Banana Production

7901. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given top priority to the production of banana in the programme of food development process ;

(b) whether any State Government has approached the Central Government for the grant of interest-free loans for the development of horticulture , and

(c) if so, the percentage of Banana cultivation in the set up of Horticulture of that State ?

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