

**Contour Bunding in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh**

4873. SHRI FSWARA REDDY Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) the amount of money sanctioned for contour bunding in Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh for 1970-71 and

(b) how it has been utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha

**Central aid to Andhra Pradesh for Increase in Acreage of Cashewnut Cultivation**

4874 SHRI B S MURTHY Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) the financial and technical help given to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for increasing the acreage in Cashewnut cultivation, and

(b) whether any new strains have been developed and introduced, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) (a) The Government of India are providing financial assistance to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for the production of Cashew nut-layers for planting new areas under cashew. The programme for Fourth Five Year Plan is to produce 30,000 layers at an estimated outlay of Rs 0.37 lakhs which will cover an area of 300 acres.

Regarding technical assistance the Directorate of Cashew Development of the Government of India at Ernakulam and the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod render necessary assistance to the State Governments

(b) No new strain has so far been developed. However some promising material consisting of a few selections and hybrids are under investigation at the Cashew Research Station, Bapatla.

**Distribution of Steel in Assam**

4875. SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether the steel quota for Assam has been greatly reduced since the formation of Meghalaya,

(b) whether existing industrial units in Assam are suffering for want of steel, and

(c) whether Assam Government has requested the Central Government not to reduce its steel quota and if so, the decision taken by Central Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) (a) The system of allocation of 'quotas' has been dispensed with under the present distribution procedure. Any indentor requiring iron or steel for genuine purposes is free to place his indents on the Joint Plant Committee. After the indent is planned and the work/sale order is issued, he can apply for priority and the despatches are made in accordance as with the priority allocation made by the Steel Priority Committee,

(b) Due to the general shortage of steel, industrial units may be suffering to some extent in all parts of the country including Assam.

(c) In view of the position explained under (a) above, the question of reduction of steel "quota" does not arise.

#### Training to Farmers about the Use of Modern Seeds and Fertilizers

4876. SHRI DEVINDERA SINGH GARCHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a scheme under consideration of Government to impart training to small farmers about the use of improved seeds and fertilizers ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b). A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Farmers Training Education has and been sanctioned in 100 selected High Yielding Varieties Programme Districts to train farmers big and small in the adoption of the recommended package of practices through institutional as well as non-institutional training.

In the non-institutional training the focal points of farmers, training are the National Demonstrations conducted by the Subject-Matter Specialists in which farmers from the neighbouring villages participate at the time of important crop operations. In addition, Production-cum-Demonstration Training Camps, supported by audio visual aids, are organised by the Peripatetic Teams on farmers' fields on high-yielding varieties of crops. Farmers Discussion Groups have been organised in the villages

for group discussions and group decisions on adoption of better practices and these are linked with the All India Radio's 'Farm and Home broadcasts'. Farmers are also provided opportunities wherever practicable for visits to progressive farms and advanced agricultural institutions within the district and the adjoining areas as a built-in element of the training programme.

The specialised needs of farmers are met through specific subject-matter short duration institutional training courses such as on seeds, fertilizers, agricultural machinery, plant protection, water use etc. at the Agricultural Universities/Research Stations/Farmers Training Centres where expertise and physical facilities are available. Specialised institutional courses for conveners of Discussion Groups are also organised to train them in the methods of conducting successful group working.

Special attention will also be given to Farmers' training in the districts where the new Projects for Small Farmers' Development Agencies and the development of Marginal Farmers' and agricultural labour are being undertaken

#### Setting up of Tobacco Threshing Plant in Gujarat

4877. SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Gujarat is one of the tobacco-growing States in the country and therefore tobacco threshing is necessarily required to be setup in Gujarat State :

(b) whether the Tobacco Development Council has recommended to set up Tobacco Threshing Plant in Gujarat or has discussed about its location : and

(c) if so, the main features thereof ?