

purchase of rough diamonds from Ghana by National Mineral Development Corporation and state ;

(a) whether the diamonds have since been sold by Government ; and

(b) if so, the amount of profit or loss sustained by Government in this bargain ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). About 40% of the diamonds have so far been sold by value. The profits or loss, as the case may be, can be ascertained only after the remaining stocks have also disposed of.

Ceiling on Irrigated Land in States

2402. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have suggested ceiling on irrigated lands in States ;

(b) whether State Governments have also been contacted in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of State Government' thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) to (c). The Central Government has suggested ceiling on all agricultural land including irrigated land. The question of lowering the level of ceiling for different categories of land in different States is under consideration of the Central Land Reforms Committee recently set up by the Government of India.

Rice Mills and their location in Manipur

2403. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the number of rice mills in Manipur and the rationale of their location, area-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : The total number of rice mills in Manipur is 107. A statement showing area-wise location is attached. Permits for the establishment and operation of rice mills in a particular area are granted by the Government of Manipur only after making a full and complete investigation in the manner prescribed in the Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 1958, and the Rules framed thereunder, and having regard to the factors enumerated therein, such as availability of power, raw materials, population, and local needs.

Statement

Statement showing the area-wise location of rice mills in Manipur.

Area	No. of rice mills
1. North District	2
2. Central District	97
3. South District	8
Total : 107	

Soil Erosion in Rajasthan Canal Project Area

2404. RAJMATA KRISHNA KUMARI JODHPUR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether any study has been carried out know the extent of soil erosion that is likely to result from the introduction of agriculture in the Rajasthan Canal Project area ; and

(b) if so, the main findings thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Government of India have not carried out any study regarding the extent of soil erosion

that is likely to result from the introduction of agriculture in the Rajasthan Canal Project Area. A team of Central experts, however, visited the Rajasthan Canal Project area in June 1970, to study the problems and make suggestions related to land use and wind erosion. The Central Arid Research Institute, Jodhpur, also has undertaken some research studies in the problem of wind erosion in Western Rajasthan and has evolved measures to reduce erosion when crops are raised.

The Central Team of experts recommended that control of soil blowing on sandy soils requires cover during May-June which can be provided on irrigated land by wheat stubble or other crop residues, provided that grazing does not destroy it and crops are not cut too close to the ground. Besides, to effectively control soil blowing in sandy areas, the entire area must be under control. Small isolated uncontrolled areas normally spread sand into adjacent areas and make the land unproductive.

The Central Arid Zone Research Institute has recommended a wind strip cropping which is practiced by growing one strip of wind strip to 6 strips of crop to control wind erosion. Sewan grass (*Lasirus sindicus*) and Castro (*Ricinus communis*) are grown in wind strip and crops like *bajra*, *moong*, *moth*, *guar*, and *til* are grown as strips of crops. This practice effectively controls the wind erosion while increasing crop yield by 10-15 per cent. Also, mulching with 45 cm. high, standing stubble of *bajra* reduces soil loss by wind erosion and increases crop yield by 5-10 per cent.

Transfer of Land from Tribals to Non-Tribals in Tripura

2405. SHRI DASARATHA DEB : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of transfers of land have taken place from tribals to non-tribals in Tripura ; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to stop such transfers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) to (b). Information is being collected from the State Governments and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

India's Sugar Interests

2406. SHRI DHANDAPANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the joint declaration adopted by the U. K. and the "Six" of the European Economic Community on 13th May, 1971 makes no reference to India's sugar interests ;

(b) Whether this is not in contravention of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement ; and

(c) the course of action likely to be followed by Government to protect India's interest's ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) to (c). There was an omission about India in the Joint Declaration.

The question of protection of India's sugar interests was subsequently taken up. The omission is likely to be corrected soon and India would be accorded the same treatment as may be given to other Developing Commonwealth Countries.

Committee for Review of Rural Development and Employment Schemes

2407. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission have set up a high level Central Committee for coordination of rural development and employment to review the progress of these schemes periodically ;

(b) if so, the progress of the schemes taken up state-wise during 1969-70 and 1970-71 ;