

(b) to (d). In those parts of the country where the new strategy programmes have been successfully adopted, there is an impact on the incomes of the agriculturists. Employment opportunities are also being increased as a result of introduction of more intensive cultivation and multiple cropping. Generally, the new technology is neutral to size of holding and it is noticed that even small farmers are not less progressive than the larger ones in their willingness to adopt new agricultural practices. However, in several areas, these farmers are handicapped by such factors as fragmentation of holdings, inadequate and untimely supply of inputs and water, lack of credit facilities and unsatisfactory arrangements for marketing and storage. In such areas, these farmers have not benefited in proportion to their number and their needs.

To take the benefits of new technology to under-privileged sections, special programmes for small farmers, marginal farmers and agricultural labour have been introduced under the Fourth Five Year Plan. Special programmes have also been taken up for dry and drought prone areas.

Increase in Price after Decontrol of Sugar

2413. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the price of sugar has gone up after decontrol ;

(b) if so, to what extent ; and

(c) the steps taken to bring down the prices ?

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

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

Payment of Provident Fund to Families of Deceased Workers in Iron Mines of Gua Area

2414. SHRI RATTANLAL BRAHMAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND

REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cases in which Provident Fund money was not paid to the families of the deceased workers in the years 1967—1971 in the iron ore mines of Gua area, Bihar; and

(b) whether Government will take immediate steps to expedite the same ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) The administration of the Employees' Provident Fund is the concern of the Central Board of Trustees set up under the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 and not the direct concern of the Central Government. The Provident Fund authorities have intimated as under :—

In the Gua area of Bihar, only two establishments, namely; M/s Indian Iron and Steel Co. and M/s. Ghatkuri Iron Ore and Manganese Mines have been covered the Employees Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952. Out of these, M/s. Indian Iron and Steel Co. has been granted exemption from the operation of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme. The work relating to maintenance of accounts and final payment of claims is done by the Board of Trustees of the establishment itself. The accounts of the members of M/s. Ghatkuri Iron Ore and Manganese Mines are, however, maintained by the Provident Fund authorities. During 1967—1971 only one application for payment of Provident Fund accumulations to the family of a deceased member was received on the 16th September, 1970 and the claim was settled on the 30th November, 1970.

(b) Does not arise.

Difficulties of Farmers of U. P. Due to Defects in Tractors Supplied by G. D. R.

2415. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :