

order to maintain a reasonable and stable price in the market.

(c) It is too early to express any definite opinion in the matter.

(d) The production of sugar during 1970-71 is expected to be about 38 lakh tonnes as against 42.6 lakh tonnes in 1969-70. However, there was also a carry-over of about 21 lakh tonnes from the previous season 1969-70. With large availability and judicious regulation of releases of sugar for sale by factories, it is proposed to maintain a reasonable and stable price in the market in the interest of the consumers.

Worker's Response to Employees Pension Scheme, 1971

2474. SHRI S. A. MURUGANATHAM;
SHRI CHANDER SHEKHAR
SINGH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether response from workers to the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1971 ; has not been very encouraging.

(b) if so, the reasons therefore ; and

(c) the steps taken to make the scheme popular ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : The administration of the Employees Family Pension Scheme, 1971 is the concern of the Central Board of Trustees Employees Provident Fund set up under the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 and not direct concern of the Central Government. The Provident Fund authorities have reported as under :—

(a) to (c). It is too early to say anything about the popularity or otherwise of the Family Pension Scheme. Salient features of the Scheme have been prepared by the Regional Commissioners and circulated among all establishments etc. The

date for exercising option by the workers concerned has been extended upto 31.8.1971 to enable them to apprise themselves fully of the benefits of the Scheme and to exercise the option.

Procurement of Paddy in Assam By F.C.I.

2475. SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has failed to reach the target of procurement of paddy in Assam ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(c) whether during the last harvesting season, the F. C. I. created a condition in which the middlemen purchased paddy at half the procurement price of the F.C.I. in North Lakhimpur and Dhemaji area in Assam and that the same was sold to the F. C. I. at prescribed rate after a couple of months ; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof ?

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

(b) The procurement operations for paddy in Assam this year started late on account of initial difficulties with the millers. There is no levy on millers in Assam. In some procurement Districts, the market arrivals almost dried up after a month of Corporation's commencing the procurement work and the price ruled much above the procurement price thereafter.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Check on Large Scale Burning of Cow Dung

2476. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal Utilisation Council of India had recommended for checking of large scale burning of Cow Dung ;