

1	2	3
2. Educated (Matricu- lates and above)*	7,341	20
Total :	16,379	3,252

\* The data are collected at half-yearly intervals ending 30th June and 31st December each year.

**Closure of R.R. shops in Rural Areas of West Bengal due to Inadequate Supply of rice and wheat**

5627. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether R.R. shops in rural areas of West Bengal in Birbhum, Burdwan and other Districts therein have been closed down due to inadequate allotment and supply of stock of rice and wheat, and insufficient procurement ;

(b) whether West Bengal Government placed demand to Central Government for additional allotment and supply of rice and wheat for opening the closed R R. shops therein for sale of the articles of Food from the shops at fair price on Ration-Card basis and relief operation ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

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

**Production and Consumption of Cashew Apples**

5628. SHRI C. JANARDANAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated production of cashew apples in India 1970-71 ;

(b) how much of these fruits is estimated to be consumed as food ;

(c) how much cashew apple is processed or preserved ; and

(d) whether any beverages or cider are now being manufactured in the country using cashew apples.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) About 6,00,000 tonnes.

(b) and (c). Only a negligible quantity of the cashew apple is consumed, processed or preserved.

(d) Yes sir, cashew apple is used in the manufacture of a liquor called "Feni" in Goa.

**Introduction of E.P.F. Scheme in Beedi Industry**

5629. SHRI MADHURYA HALDAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering the demand to include Beedi Industry into Employees' Provident Fund Scheme ; and

(b) if so, when a decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADIKAR) : (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration of Central Government in consultation with interests concerned.

**Consumption of fertilizers in states**

5630. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARGHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise consumption of fertilizers during 1970-71 as compared to the corresponding period of 1969-70 ; and

(b) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) A statement showing state-wise consumption of fertilizers (in terms of nutrients) during 1970-71 as compared to the corresponding period of 1969-70 is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-716/71].