

(a) whether the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Shri Sher Singh, had recently complained publicly about the "unsatisfactory progress" of the Central Government's crash programme for rural employment; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) and (b) A Seminar-cum-Workshop in regard to implementation of the Crash Scheme for Rural Employment was held during February 17-19, 1972. While inaugurating the Seminar-cum Workshop, the Minister had drawn attention of the representatives of the State and Union Territory Governments to the progress made so far. This being the first year of the programme, the State and Union Territory Governments took some time in formulating satisfactory proposals and in making the necessary technical, financial and organisational arrangements. Further, the rains this year started early and continued till late October. The effective working period for the implementation of the Scheme was, therefore, reduced to six months. The Minister had impressed upon the State Governments the desirability of achieving the targets set for the full year.

Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Welfare of Tribals in Kerala

810. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) names of the centrally sponsored schemes being implemented for the welfare of the tribal people in Kerala; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider setting up a few more colonies and residential schools for the tribals in Wynad area in Kerala?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY): (a) Post Matric Scholarships.

Girls Hostels.

Tribal Development Blocks.

Cooperation.

Research and Training

(b) No, Sir.

Study Group on Welfare of Pre-School Children

811. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Study Group set up by Government on the Welfare of pre-School Children had submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The report was submitted on 7th February, 1972.

(b) The salient features of the Report are as follows:

(i) The provision of an integrated service covering education, health, nutrition and welfare to the pre-school child is a very important programme in creating equality of educational opportunity.

(ii) Such services which now cover about one million children should be rapidly expanded to cover two million children by the end of the Fourth Plan and five million children or 10 per cent of the age-group 3-5 by 1981.

(iii) A variety of operational models should be developed to suit local conditions.

- (iv) Workers of different categories required for the programme should be trained.
- (v) Teaching materials and equipment necessary should be manufactured on an adequate scale and the needed guidance and supervisory services should be created.
- (vi) The resources of local communities in personnel, materials and funds should be fully harnessed.

**Development of Hybrid Variety of
Tapioca**

812. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Tuber Corporation Research Institute in Trivandrum has developed three hybrid varieties of Tapioca;

(b) if so, the particulars thereof; and

(c) whether these varieties are available for cultivation ?

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

(b) The three hybrid varieties of tapioca developed are H-97, H 165 and H-226. These hybrids have consistently recorded much higher yields than those of local varieties and M-4, at different locations. The average yields ranged from 35 tonnes in case of H-97 to 40 tonnes per hectare in case of H-165, as compared to 18 to 20 tonnes given by M-4.

(c) The plant material of these varieties is available for cultivation and will be distributed by the State Department of Agriculture.

Loss due to Fire Explosion on Freighter (Viswa Kusum) near Chittagong.

813. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian freighter "Viswa Kusum" had been abandoned near Chittagong as a result of sudden explosion and fire on board;

(b) if so, the reasons for the explosion and fire; and

(c) the approximate loss to the Shipping Corporation of India to whom the ship belonged ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) (a) and (b) An Indian freighter M. V. 'Viswa Kusum' belonging to Shipping Corporation of India which had gone to Chittagong carrying fertilizers for Bangla Desh experienced an explosion in her No. 2 hatch while she was in the approach channel on her return journey to Calcutta. As a result of the explosion, the vessel took a very heavy list to starboard. In view of the above, the ship was abandoned by master and crew who luckily are all safe. The most probable cause of the explosion is a drifting mine which having parted her mooring wire, had drifted into the swept channel.

(c) The loss due to this accident is still being assessed by the Shipping Corporation of India.

**Criteria For Giving Grants to Universities
By U.G.C.**

815. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state the criteria adopted by University Grants Commission for giving grants to Universities ?