

for Rs. 46 lakhs during the Fourth Five-Year Plan, has been approved for Sidhi district under the drought-prone area programme of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Works financed under these schemes are executed through State agencies concerned.

Community Development Blocks without Primary Health Centres

1141. SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the Community Development Blocks are still without primary Health Centres and without doctors in Madhya Pradesh ; and

(b) if so, the number of Community Development Blocks, State-wise, where such facilities are not available to the people and the steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) Yes.

(b) A statement containing the information is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3298/72].

Shortfall in the Food production during 1971-72

1142. SHRI RAM PRAKASH :

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortfall in the food production during the years 1971-72 ; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Firm estimate of production of foodgrains in the country during 1971-72 is not yet available. However, according to information available so far, the total foodgrains production during 1971-72 may be marginally lower than the record level reached in the previous year. The kharif crops, particularly coarse grains, were

adversely affected by drought during June-August, 1971 in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Mysore, floods in August-September in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, and cyclone in October in Orissa, and the summer rice crop, for which an Emergency Production Programme was launched in December, 1971, was affected in many States by failure of rains during March-May, 1972.

Taxation on Motor Vehicles by States

1143. SHRI RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are persuading the States not to increase taxation on motor vehicles ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI OM MEHTA) : (a) and (b). The recommendations of the Road Transport Taxation Enquiry Committee (Keskar Committee) regarding the present levels of taxation on motor vehicles were considered by the Transport Development Council. The general feeling in the Council was that it would be difficult for the State Governments to reduce taxation, in view of the need to raise resources for developmental activities. It was, therefore, agreed that, as a first step, there should be no further upward changes in the existing level of taxation on motor vehicles. This recommendation was brought to the notice of the State Governments for their consideration.

Setting up of Joint Indo-Afghan Cultural Commission

1144. SHRI RAM PRAKASH :
SHRI RAMSHEKHAR PRASAD
SINGH :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a joint Indo-Afghan Cultural Commission to promote cultural exchange ; and

(b) if so, its composition and the time by which it will be set up ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. There is, however, a possibility of an Indo-Afghan Joint Committee meeting taking place to draw up a bilateral Cultural Exchange Programme.

Dairy Project under Co-operative Bhojir of Nalgonda, Andhra Pradesh

1145. SHRI K. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to establish a dairy project on the lines of Anand in Gujarat in Bhojir of Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh under Co-operative sector ;

(b) if so, whether a team of experts visited Bhojir area recently in this connection ; and

(c) whether the Milk Commissioner of Andhra Pradesh gave an adverse opinion on this proposal and on its location in Visakhapatnam area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) There is no such proposal. There is already a milk chilling centre functioning at Bhojir which can handle up to 20,000 litres of milk per day.

(b) No team of experts visited Bhojir area in this connection.

(c) This is not true.

Cotton Production in Andhra Pradesh

1146. SHRI K. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken for cotton production in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) the central aid given for increasing cotton production in the State ;

(c) the prices prevailing during the last three years in the State ; and

(d) whether any comprehensive plan is formulated to improve cotton production in the country and in Andhra Pradesh in particular ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) The follow-

ing Centrally Sponsored schemes are being implemented for raising cotton production in Andhra Pradesh :

(i) Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Maximised cotton production including the scheme for the development of Sea Island cotton.

(ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Intensive Cotton District Programme.

(iii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening cotton seed multiplication programme.

In addition, the State Government is implementing Co-ordinated Cotton Development Scheme in the 'State Sector'.

(b) During 1971-72, a sum of Rs. 48.17 lakhs was released to State Government for implementing above Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The amount released during 1969-70 and 1970-71 was Rs. 1.22 lakhs and Rs. 14.00 lakhs respectively.

(c) A statement showing the wholesale prices of Laxmi variety of cotton lint prevailing at Adoni Centre in the State during the year 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72 is enclosed.

(d) Yes, the Intensive Cotton District Programme has been launched from 1971-72 in nine major cotton growing States, which includes Andhra Pradesh.

Statement

Month-end wholesale prices of Laxmi Variety (Lint) at Adoni Centre in Andhra Pradesh

(Rs. per Quintal)

Month	1971-72	1970-71	1969-70
September	525	475	N. T.
October	N. T.	N. T.	N. T.
November	N. T.	485	N. T.
December	N. T.	N. T.	N. T.
January	N. T.	N. T.	N. T.
February	N. T.	651	481
March	401	620	485
April	440	440	485
May	435	560	483
June	N. T.	630	496
July	410 (14.7.72)	700	485
August		600	505

N. T.—No Transaction.