

**Setting up of a Commission to suggest Prices of Agricultural Produce**

2042. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to set up a Commission to suggest prices of agricultural produce commensurate with the increased cost of productions; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). There is already an Agricultural Prices Commission which makes recommendations in regard to support/procurement prices for major agricultural commodities after consideration of different factors, including the interests of the producer and the consumer. For doing so, it takes into account the available data on cost of production and other relevant information. There is no proposal for constituting another similar body.

**Population of Shepherds and Steps for their Uplift**

2043. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the population of shepherds in India at present statewise; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to improve their social and economic conditions of this community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) The figures for population of Shepherds in India for 1971 Census are not yet available. The population of the Shepherds in India according to 1961 Census is as per statement enclosed.

(b) As a part of the Fourth Five Year Plan for Sheep Development, the State Governments have sanctioned schemes which provide for distribution of stud quality rams required for improvement of the local sheep, provide health cover, guidance to the sheep rearing community for improving the sheep-husbandry practices, scientific shearing of sheep, preparation of wool for the market. Large scale sheep sheas-

ing, wool grading and marketing programme has been taken up in the States of Rajasthan, J & K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Mysore with the assistance of U.N.D.P. Under this programme, benefits of mechanical shearing are made available to the sheep rearing community. In certain States, wool is being purchased from the sheep breeders which is sold at the Wool Grading Centres, after grading.

*Statement*

*Population of Sheep Rearing Community in India 1961-Census*

<i>Zone/State India</i>	<i>Persons 572,908</i>
<i>States</i>	
1. Andhra Pradesh	158,424
2. Assam	6
3. Bihar	7,590
4. Gujarat	6,003
5. Jammu & Kashmir	2,562
6. Kerala	192
7. Madhya Pradesh	5,123
8. Madras	1,718
9. Maharashtra	57,790
10. Mysore	56,479
11. Orissa	770
12. Punjab	13,321
13. Rajasthan	39,254
14. Uttar Pradesh	19,973
15. West Bengal	642

*Union Territories*

1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—
2. Delhi	48
3. Himachal Pradesh	2,475
4. Laccadive, Minicoy Islands	—
5. Manipur	—
6. Tripura	49
7. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	11
8. Goa, Daman & Diu	—
9. Pondicherry	57
10. N. E. F. A.	—
11. Nagaland	—
12. Sikkim	1

Source: Census of India, 1961. Vol. I, Part II—B(1) p. 399.