

बलजीत सिंह की अध्यक्षता रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 430, 398, 385, 336 और 290 रुपये थी। यह मान्य नहीं हुआ है कि यह प्रायः देश में सबसे अधिक है अथवा नहीं।

Imposition of Levy on Farmers by States

31. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has decided to impose food-grain levy on all farmers including those cultivating cash crops;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any other State has also imposed foodgrains levy on all farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). The Maharashtra Government have mooted a proposal to impose levy on all irrigated holding, including those under cash crops. It has been considered appropriate to bring them within the scope of the Foodgrain Levy Order as the most productive agricultural lands in the State are generally under cash crops.

(c) No such proposal has been received so far from any other State Government for imposing levy on all farmers including those cultivating cash crops.

Review of Food Situation at the Chief Ministers' Conference

32. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Chief Ministers was held in New Delhi in the middle of September, 1974 to review the food situation in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Conference had *inter-alia* discussed the question of credit squeeze for agricultural sector in the context of anti-inflationary drive and the increase in the prices of farm inputs if so, the decision taken to relax the credit squeeze; and

(c) what was the precise assessment of the food situation taken at that meeting and what decisions were taken to increase food production in the ensuing year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) to (c). The Conference of Chief Ministers was held on 14th September, 1974 mainly to consider the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission on price and procurement policy for Kharif Cereals for 1974-75 season. While expressing their views on the subject, some of the Chief Ministers referred to the policy of credit squeeze and the need to make institutional finances available to the State Governments for putting up thermal power plants for power generation for the purpose of increasing agricultural production. During discussions the general food situation and the likely shortfall in the production of kharif cereals due to erratic and inadequate rainfall in certain States was referred to by some of the Chief Ministers. The need to make all out efforts to increase agricultural production by making the essential inputs available to the farmers at