

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL):** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The State Governments are already implementing the programmes of area expansion under cashew as part of the State Sector programmes.

As regards the Cashew Corporations, only the Government of Karnataka has responded and prepared the Project Report for State Cashew Corporation which is being finalised.

#### Crop Insurance Scheme

1996. DR. RANEN SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any resistance to make the scheme of crop insurance a success; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

#### Reorganisation of Rural Cooperative Societies

1997. SHRI NAWAL KISORE SINHA:

SHRI B. V. NAIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) measures taken to reorganize the rural Cooperative societies of the country in order to enlarge member-

ship and bringing in weaker sections; and

(b) optimum size of a Society stipulated?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN):** (a) At the end of June, 1975, there were 155 lakhs Primary Agricultural Credit Societies. It is proposed to reduce the number of these societies to 1.16 lakhs viable units by the end of the Fifth Plan period. The programme of reorganisation also include organisation of Farmer Service Societies and Large-sized Multi-purpose Societies in tribal areas. States of Assam and Haryana have completed reorganisation. The other State Governments have already drawn up a phased programme for organisation which is being implemented. The progress is being reviewed by the Union Department of Rural Development, Planning Commission and the Reserve Bank of India from time to time. Some of the State Governments like Andhra Pradesh Karnataka Harvana and Rajasthan have also amended the State Cooperative Societies Act and Rules, conferring right of automatic membership on persons belonging to weaker sections from the date on which they applied for membership of a society. Other State Governments are also considering making suitable amendments in their State Laws.

(b) The norms of viability are that a society should have a full time paid Secretary and a minimum loan business of Rs. 2.00 lakhs. A viable primary agricultural credit societies on reorganisation may ordinarily cover the area of 2 or 3 existing societies. The area of operation of a F.S.S. (of the small model) or a large sized multi-purpose society, on an average, may cover 5 existing societies. The number involved may be more in a block level farmers Service Society.