

seeds and it is, therefore, being suggested to the State Governments that each village should be taken as the Unit for seed work and the distribution programme intensified in every village by registered growers with the help of Village Panchayats.

(b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 21]

Community Projects in Tripura

2961. Shri Biren Dutta: Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Community Projects started in Tripura;

(b) whether any evaluation report has been received by the Ministry; and

(c) the main findings thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) 14 Blocks, including 3 pre-extension blocks.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Marketing Co-operative Societies in Tripura.

2962. Shri Biren Dutta: Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Marketing Co-operative Societies in Tripura at present;

(b) in how many Societies Presidents and Secretaries are officials; and

(c) when they are going to be replaced by non-officials?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) There

are seven primary marketing societies and one central marketing society. This number is exclusive of the purchase and sale societies some of which are undertaking supply activities.

(b) In five marketing societies, Presidents are officials. There are no honorary secretaries in the marketing societies, all of which have got paid managers.

(c) Efforts are being made to replace officials as soon as possible.

Welfare Officers and Inspectors on Railways

2963. Shri Nambiar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provision of appointment of Welfare Officers and Welfare Inspectors as required by the Factories Act of 1948 has been strictly adhered to on the Indian Railways;

(b) whether the qualifications required viz., diploma or degree in social welfare subjects are insisted upon;

(c) if so, whether the question of revising the *ad-hoc* appointments made without such qualifications is receiving attention of his Ministry; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Southern Railway has not acted up to the Board's directive in this matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) to (c). Under the Factories Act, 1948, the State Governments are authorised to prescribe the duties, qualifications etc. of welfare Officers who are required to be appointed in all factories employing more than 500 workers. The State Governments can also exempt factories from this, subject to alternative arrangements being made. Some States have exempted Railway factories while others have not yet done so pending finalisation of alternative arrangements. The Railway Ministry