

and due to corruption in the purchasing department of the Super Bazars; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to avoid such a great loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) and (b). Since 15th of July, 1966 *i.e.* the date of start of the Super Bazars till 30th June, 1967 when the last Cooperative Year ended, the loss incurred by Super Bazar, New Delhi and its branches at I.N.A. and Patel Nagar, taken together, is Rs. 5.64 lakhs. This is a provisional figure subject to audit. As regards the period from July to September 1967, no profit and loss account has been worked out;

(c) The loss sustained by Super Bazars in New Delhi has been mainly due to promotional and developmental expenditure incurred in the first year of the starting of the Super Bazars and the high rent which had to be paid for the buildings. In the initial stages, there was also recruitment of extra staff with a view to training salesmen and managers for the branches to be opened subsequently;

(d) Steps being taken to avoid recurrence of loss include rationalisation of staff, efforts to increase sales by opening of new departments, measures to reduce operational expenditure such as expenditure on packing material.

REORGANISATION OF POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK SCHEME

281. SHRI ESWARA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to reorganise the Post Office Savings Bank Scheme to provide better service and to attract more investments;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) when the proposal is expected to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes.

(b) A statement has been laid on the table of the House indicating the main features of the Scheme. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-1525/67.*]

(c) The scheme is proposed to be tried first on an experimental basis in the Uttar Pradesh P & T Circle, with effect from 1st February, 1968.

MIGRANTS FROM EAST PAKISTAN, BURMA AND CEYLON

282. SHRI MAYAVAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to give job priority to the migrants from East Pakistan and the repatriates from Burma and Ceylon;

(b) if so, whether Government have also made reservations for vacancies in certain posts;

(c) if so, whether any directive has been issued to the Ministries of the Central Government and State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Priority has already been accorded to the migrants from East Pakistan and repatriates from Burma and Ceylon for employment in Central Government offices as indicated below :

East Pakistan Migrants :—Over-riding priority in Priority III in the Eastern Zone (Assam, West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa) and Priority III in offices in other States.

Repatriates from Burma and Ceylon :—Over-riding priority in their home States and Priority III in offices in other States.

(b) to (d). The Ministries of the Government of India have been requested to reserve 50% of vacancies in Class III and Class IV or equivalent posts in the public sector undertakings under their control. These

instructions have been communicated by the concerned Ministries to the respective undertakings.

PROCUREMENT PRICES FOR KHARIF CROPS

283. SHRI MAYAVAN :
SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI :
SHRI G. C. DIXIT :
SHRI LAKHAN LAL GUPTA :

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

(a) whether Government have decided to give bonus to the States for better procurement;

(b) if so, how many States have been given this bonus;

(c) whether there is a proposal also that the bonus should be given to the growers direct; and

(d) if so, when the final decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No bonus is being paid to the States for better procurement as such. However, under the incentive bonus scheme, bonuses are being paid to the surplus States for making supplies from internal procurement to the central pool.

(b) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana are entitled to the bonus under the scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

CROP INSURANCE

284. SHRI P. C. ADICHAN :
SHRIMATI TARA SAPRE :
SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI :
SHRI RANDHIR SINGH :

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

(a) whether the State Governments have sent their comments on the proposed Bill on crop insurance;

(b) if so, the nature of the comments received; and

(c) when the proposed Bill is expected to be introduced in Parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Only the States of Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal and U.P. have sent their tentative view on the pilot scheme of Crop Insurance, pending examination of provisions of the Draft Bill.

(b) These States broadly agree with the principles of insurance scheme and the draft Bill, but they have expressed mis-givings regarding their own capacity to assume the financial burden in the initial stages and have stressed the need for Central assistance. They have also pointed out organisational difficulties in operating the scheme and emphasised the need for intensive studies before implementing the pilot scheme.

(c) Efforts will be made to introduce the Bill in the current Session of Parliament provided replies from the State Governments are received in time for finalising the provisions of the draft Bill.

BUFFER STOCK OF FOODGRAINS

285. SHRI Y. A. PRASAD :
SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA :
SHRI D. N. DEB :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that discussions were held with the U.S. Embassy officials in October, 1967 for the building of buffer stock of two to three million tonnes of foodgrains; and

(b) if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The discussions have not yet been concluded.