

hilly tracts of the country. Individual orchardists may suffer up to 10-15 per cent loss.

(b) and (c). Protection against damage by Flying Foxes is usually obtained by setting up strong lights in the orchards and by putting obstruction in their line of flight by erecting nets over the fruit trees. Their numbers can be reduced by organising shooting parties. In different States, issue of shooting licences and ammunition for their destruction on campaign basis, is encouraged. Trials conducted on killing bats by blasting with gollignite bombs in their roosting places have given promising results. Suitable bombs have been developed and techniques for planting them on trees worked out. Over 16,000 bats were killed with the use of about 450 bombs during 1964-66. It is proposed to organise special parties to undertake such campaigns.

#### Price of Rice

**3561. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:  
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:  
Shri Warrior:  
Shri Vasudevan Nair:**

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of rice especially in rice growing States has gone up considerably; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the rise in price of rice?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon):** (a) In some of the rice producing States there has been some rise in the prices of rice.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6082/66]

#### Best Village in 1965-66

**3562. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:  
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:**

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was nation-wide competition for adjudging India's best village during 1965-66;

(b) if so, the name and location of the best village so adjudged; and

(c) the special feature of the best village which led to this result and what prize has been given?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shinde):** (a) The nation-wide competition for selecting the best village is held every year under a regular scheme. The adjudication for the best village during the year 1965-66 will be held when the data of performance become available. The results for the competition for 1965-66 will be announced some time in 1966-67.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Agriculture Cess

**3563. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:  
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:**

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research by way of agriculture cess during 1965-66; and

(b) the amount spent out of this on the staff in Headquarters and on research and other schemes during the above period?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) and (b).**

Receipts		Expenditure	
1965-66		1965-66	
(i) Receipts from agricultural Produce Cess . . . . .	66,73,100	(i) Expenditure on administrative staff at the headquarters . . . . .	13,52,980
(ii) Other Income . . . . .	29,21,900	(ii) Expenditure on Research and other schemes including technical staff . . . . .	102,60,120
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>95,95,000</b>	<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>116,13,100</b>

Note: The receipts were supplemented by the unspent balances of previous years.

**Village Force for Agricultural Production in Punjab**

3564. Shri Bagri: Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to organise a village force in Punjab to intensify agricultural production in that State;

(b) if so, whether any assistance has been given to that State;

(c) whether such organisations will be set up in other States also; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shinde): (a) to (d). There is no such proposal. However, the Village Volunteer Force, one of whose main functions is to step up agricultural production, is in existence in Punjab as in other States. No Central assistance is given for the scheme to any State.

**De-Hydration of Onions**

3565. Shri M. L. Jadhav: Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plants are functioning for the de-hydration of onions in the country;

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(b) how many of them are on large scale and how many on small scale; and

(c) the steps taken to facilitate the functioning of these plants to have better prices for the produce and to earn foreign exchange from the same?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) Yes, Sir. Two plants are already working.

(b) The following two are large-scale factories de-hydrating onions, along with other processed foods:—

1. M/s Midland Fruit & Vegetable Products, Mathura.
2. M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd., Ghaziabad.

Two more large-scale firms—viz.

1. M/s. Azeez Trading Co., Madras; and
2. M/s. Nasik Zila Sahakari Karda Nirzakaran Karkhana Ltd.,

have also since been licensed under Industries Development and Regulation Act, 1951 to set up Onion De-hydration Plants at Nasik and Pimpalgaon respectively.

There are no small scale mechanised plants for dehydration of onions, although dehydration by sun-drying method, on cottage-scale is in vogue, in some parts of the country.