

ed that Government should treat them at par with co-operatives in the matter of stamp duty, mortgage of land and ceilings ;

(b) whether the suggestions have been examined ; and

(d) if so, with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. First and Second recommendation of the Seminar on Agricultural Finance in India, organised by the Marketing and Research Bureau held in New Delhi on 15th-17th November, 1968, refer to the announcement of the floor price of important crops and the treatment of the commercial banks at par with co-operatives respectively.

(c) Not yet.

(d) Does not arise.

Terai Integrated Agricultural Development Project

3492. SHRI MAHANT DIGVIJAI NATH :
SHRI D. N. PATODIA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vice-Chancellor of U. P. Agricultural University, Pant Nagar has requested the Central Government for launching the Rs. 20 crores Terai Integrated Agricultural Development Project ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ; and

(c) when Government and the World Bank are expected to provide the necessary monetary assistance for the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (c). A project for the production of quality seeds of hybrids and other high yielding varieties has been formulated for the Terai area of U. P. in co-operation with the U. P. Agricultural University, Pant Nagar (Dist. Nainital) and

the State Government. The object of the project is to increase agricultural production by expending the availability of improved seeds of foodgrains. The Government of India have requested the World Bank to provide loan assistance for the implementation of the project.

The project envisages development of an area of about 32,000 acres on which, with double cropping, 40,000 acres seeds would be grown per annum at project completion. The production is estimated at 56,000 tons of seeds per annum at project completion.

The total cost of the project has been estimated at Rs. 200 million over a 5 year period.

The project also envisages setting up of a Terai Development Corporation with the participation of the U. P. Agricultural University, National Seeds Corporation, seed growers and some private inputs distributors. It would be incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and would be run on commercial lines. Its main functions would be organisation of production of quality seeds, processing, storage and marketing of seeds ; organization of supplies and inputs and provision of facilities to seed growers for land development and irrigation. The Terai Development Corporation would have an authorised capital of Rs. 2 crores.

Under the Project, credit would be provided to participating farmers for development of their farms, including irrigation, purchase of farm machinery and farm inputs. The loans would be advanced and recovered by the State Bank of India in accordance with its normal procedure. The co-ordination in the implementation of the Project would be achieved through an Advisory Committee to be set up by the Government of India.

An Appraisal Mission from the World Bank visited this country in April-May, 1968. Negotiations are currently being held with the World Bank authorities in Washington.