

taken to achieve the target have been explained in the document "Programmes of Agricultural Development, 1966-67" circulated to Members in April last.

Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute

3101. Dr. P. Srinivasan:
Shri M. Malaichami:
Shri M. P. Swamy:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is growing discontentment among the staff of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute at Mandapam Camp regarding the grant of special allowances; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) and (b) The staff at Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mandapam Camp, have been getting special compensatory allowance, sanction for continuance of which beyond the 31st October, 1965 was issued on 9th March, 1966. Since then there has been no report of any discontentment among the staff of the Institute.

Nursery for Pepper and Ginger in Kerala

3102. Shri Vasudevan Nair: Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to start a central nursery for pepper and ginger in Kerala State; and

(b) if so, when this nursery will be established?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) and (b). The Indian Spices Development Council at its meeting held on the 10th June, 1966 recommended the proposal for starting Central Nursery for multiplication and distribution of pepper and ginger in Kerala State.

The Regional Office is working out a Scheme.

Rice Production in Kerala

3103. Shri Vasudevan Nair: Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for rice production by the end of the Third Five Year Plan in Kerala State;

(b) what was the achievement; and

(c) if there was a shortfall, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) The State Government indicated a target of 14.61 lakh tonnes in their annual Plan proposals for 1965-66.

(b) The production in the last year of the Third Plan was 10.06 lakh tonnes.

(c) The shortfall in the production appears to have been mainly due to inadequate rainfall during the growing period of winter paddy and partly due to shortfall in the availability of improved seeds.

Mechanics in I.A.C.

3104. Shri Brij Raj Singh: Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether mechanics in the Maintenance Department of the Indian Airlines Corporation who are B.Sc.s are given a higher grade on initial appointment than those who have studied upto Matriculation or Higher Secondary stages; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?