

works undertaken by the Public Works and Irrigation Departments.

As several districts have again been affected by drought this year, a Central Team visited the State recently at the request of the State Government, visited the affected areas and held discussions with the representatives of the State Government. The State Government have been requested to prepare a detailed plan of operations for provision of relief in the light of these discussions.

Co-operative Farming

2686. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the D. R. Gadgil Committee Report on Co-operative farming;

(b) whether Government have carried out any survey on the progress of co-operative farming after the submission of the Gadgil Report;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, what concrete, time-bound programme Government intend to formulate to implement this Resolution ?

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

(b) Information is being collected periodically from State Governments on the progress made in organising cooperative farming societies. Detailed studies have also been undertaken in respect of a few selected societies in some States through Agro-Economic Research Centres.

(c) and (d). The number of societies had increased from 4305 societies on 31-3-1965 to about 8582 societies on 31-3-1968, membership from 83429 to 2,14,440 and area covered from 4.6 lakh acres to 11 lakh acres. On the basis of the findings of the detailed studies by the Agro-Economic Research Centres, priority has been given in the Fourth Plan for revitalisation and improvement of the quality of the existing societies. New societies are to be organised only in areas having potential for growth.

Prices paid to Sugarcane Growers

2687. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have collected information about the prices paid by sugar manufacturers to the sugarcane growers in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Mysore and Tamilnad;

(b) where Government have also collected figures in regard to the prices paid by the cooperative sugar mills to the cane growers in their respective areas in Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(c) whether Government are aware that there is sharp difference between the prices paid by the private manufacturers and the cooperative sugar mills to the cane growers in their respective areas; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to reduce these differentials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir, from the sugar factories concerned.

(c) and (d). Central Government fixes only the minimum price of sugarcane payable by Sugar factories. There has been some difference generally between the prices paid by the sugar factories in the private sector and those paid by the Mills in cooperative sector. This may be due to the fact that in the case of sugar factories in the cooperative sector, the sugarcane growers are also the owners of the factory.

Appointment of Wage Board for Mica Industry

2688. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the conditions of service and total emoluments of workers in the Mica Industry are miserable as compared to other sectors of the mining industry;

(b) whether Government intend to appoint a Wage Board for Mica Industry (both mining and factory sectors); and