

man/animal operated devices. Hence, efforts are being made to mobilise as much financial resources as possible for the expansion of the programme of energisation of pumpsets so that the benefit of electricity can be extended to the small farmers. Besides plan sector and institutional financing of the programme through Land Development Banks, Agricultural Refinance Corporation, Commercial Banks etc., a Rural Electrification Corporation has been set up with the main objective of financing additional rural electrification schemes.

Co-operativisation of sugar Industries

4472. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent demand for the cooperativisation of the sugar industry in the country ;

(b) whether Government propose to evolve any phased programme for putting all the sugar factories either in the State Sector or the Cooperative Sector in the Fourth Plan period ; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not formulating such a plan to ensure fair prices to the sugarcane growers ?

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

(b) and (c). It has been decided to appoint a high-power committee to examine the problems of the Sugar Industry.

Survey of the incidence of tax on electricity for agriculture

4473. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have carried out a survey of the incidence of tax on electricity for agriculture in the form of tax per horse power of electric motors or diesel engines per month, electricity per unit charged and the burden of expenditure on carrying electricity to the farms passed on to the agriculturists ;

(b) if such survey has not been carried out, the reasons for not doing so; and

(c) whether Government would advise the State Governments to review their entire policy with regard to supply of electricity to and tax burdens on agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No such survey has been carried out.

(b) The subject primarily falls within the purview of the State Governments.

(c) The draft of the Fourth Five Year Plan indicates the broad directions along which additional resource mobilisation effort can be undertaken by the State Governments. The suggestions regarding taxation in the field of agriculture include :

(i) raising the rate of return on capital employed in electricity undertakings and graduating and differentiating the tariff so as to make the better-off farmers pay a higher price.

(ii) raising of irrigation rates to mobilise resource from that section of the agricultural sector which benefits from the irrigation projects; (iii) mobilisation of additional resources in the rural sector by floating rural debentures or adopting similar device for financing Agro-Industries, irrigation schemes, rural electrification, housing and the provision of drinking water, benefiting the rural population directly; and (iv) raising more resources from the agricultural sector for financing its development by imposing an additional burden on the well-to-do farmers, through development of agricultural income tax in States where it is in force, introduction of the tax where it has not been imposed so far and attainment of parity of rates not only in States but also with the Union tax on non-agricultural incomes, or alternatively through surcharge to be levied at progressive rates on the land revenue by size of land holding or type of crops, according to the circumstances prevailing in different States.

Funds for minor irrigation schemes in Mysore

4474. SHRIMATI SUDHA V. REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) Whether the Government of Mysore have urged upon the Central Government and the Planning Commission for the provision of more funds for the Minor Irrigation Schemes ;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have considered the demand ; and

(c) the decision taken in this regard ?

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

(a) No such proposal has been received from the State Government.

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

Price of Vanaspati Ghee

4475. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the prices of each quality of vanaspati ghee sold during the years 1967, 1968 and upto October, 1969 with monthly break-up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : A statement showing the maximum zonal prices of vanaspati during 1967, 1968 and 1969 (up to October) applicable to all sales within the zone regardless of brand, is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See. No. LT-2419/69*]

Cultivation of new variety of wheat of 'EA-222-1-Lal Bahadur' in Haryana Rajasthan and U.P.

4476. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a new variety of wheat EA-222-1 'LAL Bahadur' has been recommended for