

**Special Agency to deal with
Problems of Small Farmers**

694. SHRI MAYAVAN :
SHRI CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU :
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Government are considering a proposal to set up a special agency to identify the problems of the small farmer and overcome them ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government have considered the problems of the small farmers ;

(c) if so, whether agricultural experts have advised Government that there is a category of small farmers who are not economically viable at present ;

(d) if so, the main functions of the agency ; and

(e) how far it is likely to help them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (e). A statement is attached.

Statement

Broad features of the scheme relating to credit facilities for small farmers :

Government have approved of a scheme to set up small Farmers Development Agencies to tackle the problems of small farmers.

2. The small farmers who are at or below the level of subsistence and those without a land base are not proposed to be covered under the scheme. But there is another category of small farmers who are not viable and economic today but who can become creditworthy if certain improvements are made to their land and they take to intensive cultivation with High Yielding Varieties of Seeds and other inputs. It is this category of potentially viable small farmers which will be tackled under this scheme.

3. It is proposed to concentrate attention on selected 20 Pilot districts. In these

districts the problems of small farmers will be studied in depth. Their exact requirements will be appreciated first and steps would be taken to make good these deficiencies. The work may be taken up in the different parts of the district from time to time.

4. A separate agency will be set up in each selected area for this purpose. It will utilise the assistance of existing institutions in the field such as the co-operative credit institution, zila parishad and local bodies, agro-industry corporations etc. to indicate the implementation of the programmes found essential for the economic benefit of the small farmers. It will co-ordinate the activities of the State Governments, the local authorities and the above institutions to concentrate on providing facilities such as inputs, supplies, irrigation, land levelling, use of machinery and implements to the small farmers. It will generally indicate programmes to encourage the use of improved technology and multi-cropping, besides programmes of dairy, poultry and agro-industry development.

The agency will provide outright grants to the credit institutions concerned so as to offer them an incentive for extending credit to the small farmers. It will ensure that adequate quantities of inputs are then made available to these farms. It will assist the Institutes in the field, particularly the credit institutions, monetarily and with staff ; but it will not extend credit itself.

6. The short, medium and long term loans for the development of agricultural lands, for creating irrigation facilities, for land levelling and for meeting the requirements of raising High-yielding Varieties and other crops would be provided for by the co-operative sector wherever it is possible. About 50,000 small farmers might be selected and covered during the period of five years in one project. The aggregate quantum of short-term credit that might be provided by the co-operatives during the five years period might be of the order of Rs. 7.5 crores and an equal amount i.e. Rs. 7.5 crores might be provided to the small farmers by way of long-term loans during the same period.

6. The approved agency which would co-ordinate the programme and help to render custom services and facilities will be given adequate funds for employing necessary staff to perform all these functions. It is

proposed that each agency might get on an average Rs. 1.60 crores by way of a grant during the 4th Five Year Plan for these purposes. The grants proposed to be given to the approved agency would also cover the risk of advancing loans to the small farmers.

7. The Planning Commission has tentatively approved that the outlay for the scheme may be Rs. 30 crores during the Fourth Five Year Plan period.

8. The scheme has been approved by the E. F. C. Provision of Rs. 2 crores for the year 1969-70 exists in the Central Budget.

Passing of Bill on Displaced Persons in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly

695. SHRI MAYAVAN :
SHRI CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU :
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a deliberate attempt on the part of the Ruling Party in Jammu and Kashmir not to pass the Displaced Persons Bill in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly ;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there were wide-spread riots in the city on the day the bill was to be discussed ;

(c) whether both Opposition as well as the Ruling Party were behind the riots ;

(d) whether Government propose to intervene in the matter and decide the issue as the agitation by the refugees was called off on the assurance given by the Central Government ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House

Elimination of Intermediaries in Food Trade

696. SHRI CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU :
SHRI MAYAVAN :

SHRI R. BARUA :
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government are considering to eliminate the intermediaries from the food trade operated by Government and Semi-Government agencies ;

(b) whether the proposed plan was also circulated to the State Governments if so, their reactions ; and

(c) whether the proposed plan was also discussed during the Chief Ministers' Conference on the 27th September 1969 ; and if so, the decisions arrived at ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) It is not possible to eliminate intermediaries from the food trade completely. However, it is the policy of the Government to reduce the number of intermediaries as far as possible.

(b) and (c). The A. P. C. in its report on price policy for kharif cereals for 1969-70 recommended direct purchases of foodgrains from producers and elimination of intermediaries. The Report has been circulated to all State Governments. The recommendation of the Commission was discussed in the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 27.9.69 and was acceptable in principle. However, it was decided that the State Governments would be free to choose the system of purchases best suited to meet the needs for intensifying procurement in their States.

Theft of Copper Wire in Orissa

697. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :
SHRI S. M. KRISHNA :
SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been many cases of theft of copper wire which is used in the telephone line in many parts of Orissa ;

(b) if so, the number of such cases occurred during the last one year