

**Effect of Heavy Rain, Insects and Plant Diseases on Cotton, Jowar, Moong in Certain areas of Maharashtra**

3280. SHRI YADAV SHIVARAM MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of the area in Maharashtra, particularly, Marathwada, Vidarbha, Jalgaon, Dhulia and Nasik Districts in which cotton, Jawar and moong have been seriously affected by heavy rains and insects and plant diseases;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to grant relief of agriculturists in the concerned areas; and

(c) if so, the form and amount of the relief that is being given ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected from the State Government and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as early as possible,

**Net-Work of Rural Markets**

3281. SHRI M. SUDARSANAM ; Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to have a net work of rural markets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). A net work of assembling markets for agricultural produce already exists in most parts of the country. According to a survey conducted by the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection in 1961-62, the number was such markets all over the country in that year was 3406. There is a plan to bring more and more of these markets under regulation so as to systematise their working and to ensure

fair-play in dealings with the producer and the consumer. On the eve of the Fourth Plan the number of regulated markets and sub-market yards was 1844. By March 31, 1970, 2070 markets had already been regulated. During the Fourth Five Year Plan, it is proposed to cover 1300 markets and sub-market yards by regulation.

The Government of India also have planned establishment and construction of new agricultural markets in certain areas under the Integrated Area Development Programme. These programmes have been taken up in some of the newly irrigated project Areas for the provision of new market complexes and connecting rural roads. Under this programme, regulated markets would be located at suitable centres and all weather roads would be built to link them up with the surrounding areas. The expenditure on these items would be met from the Central Sector and the schemes would be executed through the State Government concerned. Before any command area becomes eligible for inclusion in the above mentioned programme, it is necessary that the State Government concerned agree to arrange for all other necessary services and inputs listed as follows :—

- (a) Improved administrative arrangements,
- (b) Soil Survey.
- (c) Land Levelling and Land shapping
- (d) Determination of proper irrigation practices and drainage requirements
- (e) Cropping patterns
- (f) Consolidation of holdings.
- (g) Provision of inputs, viz, credit, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural machinery.
- (h) Building up of an adequate research base.
- (i) Extension and formers education and training.
- (j) Planning of towns and new urban centers around mandi-towns.
- (k) Processing industries.