

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) The Trivandrum Station of All India Radio has two transmitters—one of medium power and the other of low power.

(b) There is no proposal to increase the power of transmitters at Trivandrum as the high power transmitter being set up at Alleppy is primarily meant for the Trivandrum Station.

G. D. R. Tractors

4140. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the G. D. R. had gifted two tractors each to the Tractor Testing Station at Budni and Hissar ;

(b) if so, whether the D. G. T. D. had cleared the import for these tractors together with matching implements ; and

(c) whether copies of the reference made to D. G. T. D. and his reply thereto will be placed on the Table ?

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

(c) It is not in the public interest to place these papers on the Table of the Sabha.

Study of Cooperative Development

4141. SHRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government at any time made out any study of the cooperative development in different States in the country ; and

(b) if so, the results of such study ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA) : (a) Committees have been appointed, from time to time, by the

Government of India to go into the specific problems of cooperative developments. Enquiry into the working of individual cooperatives, however, is the statutory responsibility of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies under the respective State Acts. The Government of India last appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Ram Nivas Mirdha in 1964 to :

- (i) lay down standards and criteria by which the genuineness of cooperative societies of various types may be judged and to suggest measures for weeding out non-genuine societies and preventing their registration ;
 - (ii) review the existing cooperative laws, rules and practices with a view to locating the loopholes which enable vested interests to entrench themselves in cooperative institutions and recommend measures—legislative as well as administrative—for the elimination and preventing of such vested interests ; and
 - (iii) examine the factors inhibiting self-reliance and self-regulation in the cooperative movement and to suggest appropriate remedies.
- (b) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

The Mirdha Committee submitted its Report in 1965. It reported that while the cooperative movement as a whole was proceeding on right lines, there were shortcomings and defects which could be remedied successfully with vigilant administration and supervision at official as well as non-official levels. The Committee recommended open membership, exclusion of money-lenders, traders and other middlemen, adequate arrangements for audit and independent agency for audit, building up of common cadres of qualified and trained personnel, regular elections and meetings of general body and adequate arrangements of education and training of members and staff of cooperatives. These recommendations were referred to the State Governments and were generally endorsed by the Conference of State Ministers of Cooperation held in 1965. However, there was not much progress in their implementation. Quick study was also

attempted by the Government of India in 1967 to ascertain the extent of vested interest in primary agricultural credit cooperatives. This problem of vested interests in the cooperative movement was considered in detail by the Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers of Cooperation held in June, 1968. The Conference recommended a number of measures for curbing the growth of vested interests which included the following :

- (1) Exclusion of moneylenders, traders and other middlemen from the membership of the cooperative societies by statute, if necessary.
- (2) Strict enforcement of the principle of open membership in the primary societies.
- (3) Reservation of seats on the Board of Management to small farmers and members of weaker sections.
- (4) Restrictions on holding office for more than two terms in the same institutions and also holding office simultaneously in more than two institutions.
- (5) Regulation of the loans issued to the office bearers.
- (6) Regular election by an independent authority.
- (7) Adequate arrangements for audit
- (8) Creation of cadres of trained managerial personnel.
- (9) Formulation of rules for recruitment of staff.
- (10) Adequate arrangements for education and training of staff.

These recommendations were communicated to the State Governments by this Ministry. The action taken thereon was reviewed in the Conference of Registrars of Cooperative Societies held at New Delhi on 6th and 7th June, 1969 and in the Conference of Ministers incharge of Co-operation held at Bangalore on 30th June, 1969 and 1st July, 1969.

Some States have amended the State Cooperative Societies Acts/Rules in pursuance of the recommendations of the Conference of Chief Ministers. Some other States have set up committees to study comprehensive amendments to the State legislation.

Demand for increase in production of Vanaspati Industry

4142. SHRI P. C. ADICHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vanaspati industry has been demanding increase in prices of their production ;

(b) if so, the precise demand of the industry ; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). The Vanaspati industry has not asked for any specific increase in the price of vanaspati. They had, however, approached Government for increase in the packing costs on account of the rise in the price of tin-plate used for manufacture of containers.

(c) The requisite increase has since been allowed. The price of vanaspati, however, was revised downwards on three occasions in the last two months.

Circulation of Indian Newspapers as Compared to Japan, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, USA, USSR and U. K.

4143. SHRI D. AMAT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the comparative circulation of newspapers in India, per lakh of population, with that in Japan, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, USA, USSR and the U. K. ; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to ensure large circulation of news papers in India for educating and keeping the public well informed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) The annual Newspaper Allocation Policy is framed with due regard to facilitating the growth of newspapers, particularly