

(a) whether a general council meeting of the National Cooperative Development Corporations was held recently;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed at the meeting and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the working of the cooperatives in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) In the last meeting held on 28.3.90, the General Council of NCDC considered the programme of Activities of NCDC for the year 1990-91 and approved the programme and financial estimates thereof at the level of Rs. 260 crores. Besides confirmation of the minutes of the earlier meeting and review of the action taken on actionable points of the previous meeting, the General Council also perused the Audited Statement of Accounts of NCDC and NCDC Employees Provident Fund for the year 1988-89.

(c) "Cooperative Societies" is a State subject under the Indian Constitution. Measures to strengthen the "Cooperative Societies and to improve their working are taken by the State Governments in their area with assistance and guidance from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and other organisations interested in promoting and financing cooperatives in the country. Government of India has also commended the various recommendations of the Conferences of State Ministers of Cooperation held from time to time, with a view improve the working of cooperatives in the country. The recommendations made by the Committee on Cooperative Law for democratisation and professionalisation and Management in Cooperatives (Ardhanareshwaran Commit-

tee) have also been forwarded to the State Governments.

U.K.'s Views on Kashmir Issue

6751. **SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI:**
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Kingdom has proposed for the settlement of Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan through bilateral negotiations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: (a) to (c). The position of the Government of UK as stated on a number of occasions is that the "Kashmir issue" can be settled only by agreement between India and Pakistan. The Government of UK has also stated that its position is entirely consistent with the terms of the Simla Agreement providing for settling of differences between India and Pakistan by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations.

[*Translation*]

Jobs to Farmers in IFFCO Factory at Aonla

6752. **SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:** Will the Minister of **AGRICULTURE** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers whose lands have been acquired for setting up IFFCO factory at Aonla in district Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh) and the number of farmers out of them who have been provided jobs: