

(b) whether there is Regional or Project Office of National Cooperative Development Corporation in Kerala; and

(c) whether Government propose to open an office of the National Cooperative Development Corporation in Kerala for implementation of the Corporation's scheme in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The Headquarters of the seven Regional Office by the National Cooperative Development Corporation are located in the States of Assam, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and the Union Territory of Chandigarh; and those of the seven Project Offices, in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) : The Regional Office at Bangalore, whose jurisdiction extends to Kerala, looks after formulation of and monitors the implementation of, the Corporation's scheme in Kerala.

Farming Methods

*827. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the farmers in Madhya Pradesh are unable to adopt developed methods of farming;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) and (b) : No, Sir.

(c) Steps taken by Government to increase awareness and adoption of modern farm methods include the following : (i) Farmers are made aware of improved farming methods through systematic transfer of technology under Training and Visit system of farm extension. (ii) Farmers are also made aware of improved methods through farm fairs, organised study tours, and field demonstrations with a view to increasing their adoption of modern technology in crop production. (iii) Research-extension linkage is strengthened so as to generate appropriate farm technologies for varying agroclimatic conditions, and according to resource capabilities of farmers, and (iv) Farm information support is also extended through mass-media etc. for making the farmers aware improved farming methods.

Floor Price of Cotton Fixed by APC

*828. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Agriculture Prices Commission has fixed the floor price of cotton and if so, what is the price;

(b) how does this price compare with the near average market price of the different types of cotton during the year 1984; and

(c) what is being planned to bring floor price nearer to the market price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The Government fixed the support prices of cotton for 1984-85 season at Rs. 410 per quintal for F-414/H 777 variety and Rs. 535 per quintal for H-4 variety as recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission, renamed as Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

(b) Till October, 1984, the average market prices of different varieties of cotton were much above the support

prices, but with the arrival of the new crop the market prices declined from the unusually high levels. While these generally ruled above the support levels, in some centres they tended to come close to or even go below the support levels, particularly in the case of long stable varieties.

(c) The support price is in the nature of a long term guarantee to assure the farmers that in the event of a glut, the produce will be purchased by public agencies at support prices to prevent prices going below the support level.

Cotton, Jawar, Bajra not Covered Under Crop Insurance Scheme

*829. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Cotton, Jwar, and Bajra are the items which are not covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore ;

(c) whether Government have received representation from the Maharashtra Government to include the said three items in the Crop Insurance Scheme; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto and by when a final decision is likely to be taken to include the said items in the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) and (b) : No, Sir. Only Cotton crop has been excluded for the time being as it is proposed to cover the cash crops at a later stage after assessing the progress of the scheme in respect of cereals, pulses and oilseeds.

(c) and (d) : Yes, Sir. On representation from the Government of

Maharashtra, it has been decided to include millets (which include Jawar and Bajra) in addition to Paddy, Wheat, Pulses and Oilseeds under the New Scheme. Cash Crops like Cotton, would be covered under crop insurance subsequently.

Setting up of Air Station at Ayodhya

*830. SHRI NIRMAL KHATRI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state whether keeping in view the importance of Ayodhya and also to promote Awadhi language Government propose to set up an All India Radio Station there and if so, by what time ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : Ayodhya is well served by the AIR Stations at Lucknow and Gorakhpur. There is, thus, no felt need at present, to set up a radio station there.

Moratorium on Strikes and Lock-Outs

*831. SHRI EDUARDO : FALEIRO Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have initiated any move with managements and labour unions to bring about a moratorium on strikes, lock-outs and closures for two years to increase industrial output ; and

(b) if so, details of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) and (b) : In his letter dated the 14th January, 1985 to the State Chief Ministers, the Labour Minister had suggested that the State Governments, in order to increase production and productivity, might call representatives of both the trade unions and employers and discuss the steps necessary to ensure that there are