

Teachers Cooperative House Building Society till date in response to Delhi Administration (Coop. Department) Notice No. F. 954(H)/42, dated the 2nd March, 1974; and

(b) whether it is a fact that only some selected members were called by the Assistant Registrar (Audit) Co-operative Societies for verification and if so, the total number of such persons and the reasons for not calling the remaining ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) 1,482 affidavits have been received upto 18th November, 1974.

(b) Only such persons, numbering 569, were called for verification who had not furnished complete particulars in their affidavits or had given details which did not tally with the Audit Report received on 27th August, 1967.

Pronouncement by Prime Minister on Self-Sufficiency in Foodgrains

*201. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the 1972 election campaign the Prime Minister declared in several public meetings that India had finally become self-sufficient in the matter of foodgrains;

(b) whether in these election rallies she also said that for the first time after a gap of nearly 70 years India is in a position to become a net exporter of foodgrains;

(c) what was the basis for these optimistic pronouncements by the Prime Minister; and

(d) whether these pronouncements are likely to be turned into hard facts in the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) to (d). In view of the facts (i) that a very substantial increase in the output of foodgrains had been achieved from a peak level of 89.4 million tonnes in 1964-65, i.e. the best year before the adoption of the New Agricultural Strategy, to 108.4 million tonnes in 1970-71 and (ii) that millions of refugees from the erstwhile East Pakistan, now Bangla Desh, were supplied food rations largely from the resources built up in the country, the Prime Minister had, high lighted the country's success in achieving self-reliance. At that time certain quantities were also exported to Bangla Desh to meet their urgent requirements. Had weather been normal and requisite quantities of inputs, like fertilisers, power, etc., been available, production during subsequent years would have been even higher. The extent to which production would increase in the coming two years would depend on weather and availability of critical inputs.

Central Assistance for Flood Protection Work in North Bengal

1801. SHRI LUTFAL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Bengal Government sought about Rs. 1.5 crores from the Centre for flood protection work in North Bengal;

(b) if so, the main feature of the proposal of the State Government for the purpose; and

(c) action taken by the Centre regarding this proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH): (a) The State Government of West Bengal had sought financial assistance of