

of public expenditure for them in developing countries;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the above and other observations made in the policy paper on rural development, and

(c) steps Government propose to take to ameliorate the condition of the rural people in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAH-NAWAZ KHAN) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) This is a confidential report of the World Bank which was prepared for the use of its staff members and is in the nature of guidelines to them for formulating their lending programmes. As such no reaction from Government was necessary.

(c) One of the major objectives in the Fifth Plan is to substantially raise the per capita consumption of the lowest 30 per cent of the rural population. This implies that the income of about 26 million of the poorest rural households must rise. For achieving this objective, various programmes have been launched under Plan programmes. These programmes include development of drought prone areas, schemes for development of animal husbandry and fisheries, schemes for sericulture schemes for small and marginal farmers, integrated development of command areas, development of tribal and hill areas, implementation of land reforms, legislation, development of rural industries and agro-based industries, development of cooperatives as an effective instrument to serve the needs of agricultural/rural population, adoption of price support measures for agricultural commodities to safeguard the interests of producers against vagaries of fluctuating prices and various other measures to improve the agricultural technology to increase the agricultural production.

The minimum needs programme introduced during the Fifth Plan period also mainly envisages improving the living conditions of rural population. The aspects of minimum needs programme which particularly relate to rural areas include provision of facilities for elementary education for children up to the age of 14 at the nearest possible places to their homes, supply of drinking water to villages suffering from chronic scarcity or having unsafe sources of water, provision of all weather roads to all villages having a population of 1,500 persons or more, provision of developed homes sites for landless labourers in rural areas, ensuring the spread of electrification in the rural areas and provision of integrated health facilities including primary health centres, supply system for nutrition feeding and family planning.

All the above programmes are directed to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the rural people of the country.

Establishment of Cooperative Sugar Factories in Andhra Pradesh

*526 SHRI P NARASIMHA REDDY Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the financial and other difficulties holding up the establishment of new sugar factories in cooperative sector in Andhra Pradesh,

(b) whether even though the requisite share capital has been contributed by the growers for the new Cooperative Sugar Factory at Renigunta, Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh, no progress has been made in establishing the factory, and

(c) what steps are proposed to remove the difficulties and expedite the establishment of the new Cooperative Sugar Factories

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) (a) Newly licensed sugar factories in the cooperative sector are generally facing difficulties on account of increased cost of the plant and machinery, as well as of erection and installation thereof.

(b) The new cooperative sugar factory at Renigunta, District Chittoor of Andhra Pradesh have so far collected share capital of Rs. 106.00 lakhs only which includes Rs. 52.00 lakhs from grower members and Rs. 54 lakhs from the State Government. The cooperative called for tenders for plant and machinery but have not yet placed orders.

(c) In view of the steeply increasing cost of the total project, the Government had set up a Committee in April 1974 to study the problems faced by the newly licensed sugar factories and to suggest various incentives and other measures for making these factories economically viable. The report of this Committee is in an advanced stage of consideration by the Government.

Levy System for procurement of Foodgrains

*537. **SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI**: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where levy system for the procurement of foodgrains has been introduced; and

(b) progress and the main features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-9854/75.]

Losses suffered in sale of Foreign and Indian Foodgrains through Fair Price Shops

*538. **SHRI D. P. JADEJA**: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government suffered heavy losses in sale of foodgrains imported as well as indigenous through fair price shops during the last year;

(b) if so, how much;

(c) what are the main reasons for it; and

(d) the steps to be taken by the Government during the next year to reduce such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): (a) to (d). During the year 1974-75 for supply of foodgrains to the Central Pool, there was a subsidy of Rs 295 crores on account of the difference between the issue price and the economic cost of imported and indigenously procured foodgrains. A number of steps are being taken to reduce the burden of subsidy.

Inclusion of Tamil Nadu Land Reform Measures in IXth Schedule to the Constitution

*539. **SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM**: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the land reforms measures initiated by the Tamil Nadu State Government have been held up in Courts;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has pleaded for including them in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?