

cooperation of the sick sugar factories. The owners of sugar factories at Lauriya, Warisaliganj and Ryam have shown willingness for cooperativisation. The State Government is examining the technical, financial and organisational aspects in order to be able to take a decision in each case.

**Cane Growers Association and Its Representation in the Enquiry Committee on Sugar Industry**

\*558. SHRI D. K. PANDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the formation and existence of an All-India Cane-Growers Association and if so, whether its representation is made in the Enquiry Committee on Sugar Industries ; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps for reducing the cost of production of cane per ton in each region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. However, the Sugar Industry Enquiry Commission already has on it a member representing the interests of sugarcane growers. The Commission will, during the course of its deliberations and before making its recommendations, consult all interests it considers necessary, including representatives of sugarcane growers.

(b) A number of sugarcane development schemes are in progress in various States. With the increase in yields per unit area and improvement in the quality of cane grown, the cost of production of sugarcane is likely to come down at the present level of indices of cost.

**Recommendations made at the Meeting of Representatives of Railway Board, Organisations of Coal Industry and other interests with Chief Minister, West Bengal**

\*559. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES

be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of the representatives of the Railway Board, Organisations of Coal Industry and various other interests took place with the Chief Minister of West Bengal recently ; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations made at the meeting ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Abolition of Licensing System in Coarse Grains**

\*560. SHRI R. S. PANDIY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to abolish licencing system so far as the trade in coarse grains is concerned in the country ;

(b) whether all State Governments have agreed to this decision ; and

(c) the impact of this decision on the economy of deficit States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b). In view of the easy availability of coarse grains and pulses, Government had requested the State Governments to relax the provisions of their Licensing Orders by leaving out these grains from the purview of such Orders. In pursuance of the request made by Government many State Governments have discontinued the system of licensing in respect of all or some of the coarse grains, taking into account the local conditions prevailing in their States.

(c) No adverse effect on the prices or availability of coarse grains is likely to occur in the States where relaxations have been made, because the Governments of