

(b) There were 5277 joint farming co-operative societies in the country on 30th June, 1969. The total area under cultivation by these societies was 1.79 lakh hectares and the total value of produce raised by these cooperatives during 1968-69 was Rs. 6.59 crores.

(c) The total membership of the joint farming societies as on 30th June, 1969 was 1.19 lakhs; of these, 0.88 lakh were working members including 0.54 lakh members who were employed full-time in the field operations.

**Non-Lifting of Wheat by Food Corporation of India from Mandis in Uttar Pradesh**

\*868. SHRI RAM SEWAK CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there were heavy arrivals of wheat stocks in the Mandis of Uttar Pradesh in the month of May, 1971 and that there was no off-take of the commodity by the Regional Manager, Food Corporation of India, Lucknow;

(b) if so, whether the farmers of Uttar Pradesh could not get the benefit of Price Support Scheme sponsored by Government of India; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) to (c). It is a fact that there were heavy and unprecedented arrivals of wheat in the mandis of Uttar Pradesh in May, 1971. The massive arrivals did initially upset the arrangements that were made for procurement and led to difficulties like congestion in the mandis, shortage of gunnies, etc. The problems were reviewed at the highest level and immediate steps were taken to remedy the situation.

2. The administrative machinery of the corporation in Uttar Pradesh was suitably strengthened by posting additional staff. Arrangements were made for rushing gunnies and availability of funds. To supplement rail movement from Western Uttar Pradesh, arrangements were also made for long distance movement by road from procurement areas to the depots to relieve congestion in the markets. Closer coordination was established with the agencies of the State Government. Popular committees were established under the chairmanship of Collector to coordinate the procurement operations. To relieve the distress of the farmer due to damage caused to wheat by untimely and unseasonal rains, specifications were promptly and appropriately relaxed. Purchases of rain affected wheat were also immediately commenced. Consequently the Corporation was able to purchase nearly 3,81,000 tonnes of wheat during May, 1971 against 1,14,000 tonnes for the corresponding period during last year. During the month of June, the procurement operations are still continuing and already about 8 lakh tonnes of food-grains have been procured against the original target of 6,50,000 tonnes set by the Agricultural Prices Commission. The price support procurement operations by the F. C. I. assisted by the cooperatives has been, by and large, successful in protecting the interests of the farmers.

**Increase in price of Steel**

\*869. SHRI P. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Steel Ltd., has requested Government to increase the prices of Steel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) . Do not arise.

**Deposits of Asbestos in Tamil Nadu and Mysore**

\*870. SHRI BHUVARAHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether rich deposits of ore like asbestos have been found in Thimbam forests lying between Tamil Nadu and Mysore States, according to a past survey made by some experts;

(b) whether this survey report has been studied; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir. No deposits of asbestos in the Thimbam forests of Tamil Nadu have been reported.

(b) and (c) . Do not arise.

**Transfer of Ownership of Houses and Shops to Delhi Municipal Corporation/D.D.A. by Rehabilitation Ministry**

3565. SHRI JADEJA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to transfer the ownership of houses and shops which have been handed over by the Rehabilitation Ministry to Delhi Municipal Corporation or Delhi Development Authority; and

(b) if so, the mode of recovery of the cost of the said property ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHANDILKAR) : (a) and (b). The only pro-

perty, the transfer of ownership of which to the Corporation is under the consideration of the Department of Rehabilitation, is the superstructure in the Lajpat Rai Market. The mode of recovery of the cost is also being considered along with the question of transfer of ownership.

**Evaluation of Rural Manpower Programme conducted by Programme Evaluation Organisation**

3566. SHRI TEJA SINGH SWATANTRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any evaluation of Rural Manpower Programmes was conducted by Programme Evaluation Organisation in 1967;

(b) if so, its main features; and

(c) whether the said evaluation helped the Government to reconsider the planning and if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The findings contained in the report of the Programme Evaluation Organisation have been taken into consideration in formulating the rural employment programmes during the Fourth plan such as Rural Works Programme and Crash Scheme for Rural Employment.

**Statement**

1. As against the Third Plan outlay of Rs. 150.00 crores, a sum of Rs. 19 crores only was made available to the Rural Manpower Programme. As a result, the State Governments could not plan and