

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) A Multicrop Demonstration Scheme including fertiliser use in 5 acre blocks in Intensive Agricultural District Programme and High Yielding Varieties Programme areas having assured irrigation has been introduced during 1967-68. A complete demonstration will have two or three crops of improved varieties of high yielding varieties.

(ii) A Pilot Demonstration Project has been drawn up to demonstrate the maximisation of yields of high yielding varieties on 100 acre blocks by scientific methods of cultivation and use of fertilisers at recommended levels.

(iii) Soil testing service is being expanded to give correct fertiliser recommendations.

(c) Yes, Sir. To encourage the farmers to condition their soils, a scheme for subsidised distribution of soil conditioners is under implementation as a plan scheme. Another scheme for popularisation of Soil Conditioners on 100 acre Blocks has also been drawn up.

Cattle Wealth

*1210. Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudhary:
Shri G. S. Mishra:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total cattle wealth in the country according to the 1966 census;

(b) the number of them which is uneconomic;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to reduce the number of uneconomic cattle;

(d) whether Government consider the feasibility of sterilizing cattle, specially low-milk yielding variety; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community

Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) The total cattle wealth in the country according to 1966 census is not yet known as the information from some of the State Governments has not been received so far.

(b) According to the Cattle Preservation and Development Committee set up by the Government of India in 1947 about 10 per cent of the country's cattle population was uneconomic. Recent estimate is however not available.

(c) Castration of scrub bulls/other young male calves not considered fit for breeding is regularly undertaken by the field staff of the State Animal Husbandry Departments. A mass castration scheme was initiated in the Third Five Year Plan with a view to accelerating the tempo of castration work in the country. Gosadan Centres have also been set up for segregating the old, infirm and unproductive cattle.

(d) Male animals are sterilised by castration. A pilot project for curbing the propagation of unproductive cows through the insertion of Intra Uterine Contraceptive Device is also proposed to be initiated.

(e) Does not arise.

खाद्य क्षेत्र

1211. श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री :
श्री रघुवीर सिंह शास्त्री :
श्री आत्म दास :
श्री शिव कुमार शास्त्री :
श्री यशवन्त सिंह कुशवाह :
श्री यशपाल सिंह :

क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बिहार सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार को अपनी यह सय व्यक्त की है कि यदि खाद्य क्षेत्र समाप्त कर दिये जायें तो खाद्यान्नों के मूल्य कम हो जायेंगे;