

(c) whether the demand for fertilizers has been heavy and Government could hardly meet 30 per cent of it; and

(d) whether Government or certain banks have given loans to the farmers to buy seeds and fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The demand for fertilizers has been substantially met in 1967-68.

(d) Yes, Sir. The State Government and certain banks, including Co-operative Banks, give loans to farmers to buy seeds and fertilisers.

Fallow Lands under Co-operative Farming

*234. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a survey of land lying fallow which can be brought under cultivation;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce Co-operative farming in such lands by organising a Land Army; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to land utilisation statistics of the country for the year 1964-65 (latest available), the recorded area of wasteland is 750 lakh acres. However, most of these waste-

lands cannot be brought under cultivation at an economic cost. In order to assess the extent of culturable wastelands available in the country, the Government of India appointed a Wasteland Survey Committee in 1959. This Committee identified 12.23 lakh acres of culturable wastelands in blocks of more than 250 acres.

More recently, the Government of India undertook a second survey of wastelands in blocks of less than 250 acres to supplement the work done by Wasteland Survey Committee. This survey is in progress and so far an area of 44 lakh acres has been located as potentially suitable for cultivation after reclamation.

(c) and (d). The Government has suggested to the States that as a policy the settlement of Government wastelands may be made with the Co-operative Farming Societies on a preferential basis. There is however no proposal to organise a "Land Army" for this purpose. Nor is any such measure feasible not only because Land is a State subject but also because a pooling of the voluntary effort on co-operative basis is preferred to regimentation.

खाद्य क्षेत्रों को समाप्त करना

*235. श्री मधु लिमये : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार उन राज्यों को आयातित गेहूँ की सप्लाई नहीं करेगी जो खाद्य क्षेत्रों को समाप्त करने के लिये राजी नहीं हो रहे हैं; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मन्त्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री (श्री भद्रा साहिब शिन्दे) : (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।