

gramme (*Interruptions*) The other? That is for the construction of roads, etc.

**SHRI MADHURYA HALDAR:** From the reply of the hon. Minister it is known that only one fourth of the money has been utilised—that is, Rs. 56 lakhs out of Rs. 2 crores. What are the reasons for this non-utilisation or short utilisation and what steps are the Government going to take to utilise the full amount within the Fourth Plan period?

**PROF. SHER SINGH:** It took some time for the project officer and the staff to get into position and identify the beneficiaries. 12,500 beneficiaries had been identified in one project and in the other one about 12,735 had been identified. It took them some time but they are coming up very well.... (*Interruptions*) In Orissa these projects are coming up very well now.

#### **Action taken on Land Reforms Regulation Act, 1971 in Dadra and Nagar Haveli**

\*454. **SHRI RAMUBHAI PATEL:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Land Reforms Regulation Act, 1971 was promulgated by the President of India on the 8th December, 1971;

(b) if so, why action has not been taken in Dadra and Nagar Haveli so far in this regard; and

(c) when the final decision is likely to be taken?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):**

(a) Yes, Sr.

(b) and (c). The Dadra and Nagar Haveli Land Reforms Regulation, 1971 has been re-examined in the light of the national guidelines on ceiling on

agricultural holdings based on the conclusions of the Chief Ministers' Conference held in July, 1972. Steps are being taken in consultation with the Administration of the Union Territory for its every amendment.

**श्री रामू भाई पटेल :** अध्यक्ष जी, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि मुख्य मंत्रियों की परिषद् में तब हुआ कि भूमि सुधार अधिनियम दादरा नगर हवेली में लागू न किया जाय, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उक्त परिषद् में दादरा नगर हवेली की ओर से जिन्होंने इस चर्चा में भाग लिया क्या वे दादरा नगर हवेली गये थे और वहाँ की परिस्थिति खुद जा कर किसी ने देखी थी ?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** The Lt. Governor sent the proposals to us. The Home Ministry processed the proposals. The proposals now under consideration are on the guidelines evolved in the Chief Ministers conference and formally approved by the Government of India.

**SHRI D. P. JADEJA:** May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that Dadra and Nagar Haveli is entirely a tribal area and the country's biggest landlords holding agricultural and forest lands are in this area? What special measures are being taken to see that all this land is transferred to the tribals?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** According to our guidelines, if there are excess lands, priority has to be given to persons who belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The tribals naturally will have priority in allotment.

#### **Money required for payment to cultivators for purchase of rice consequent on rice trade take-over**

\*457. **SHRI S. C. SAMANTA:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the sums of money needed to purchase rice from the cultivators in

case the policy to take over wholesale trade in rice is implemented;

(b) whether the purchase price of rice has been settled and if so, what are the rates; and

(c) the steps likely to be taken so that the scheme succeeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

Operational details for the take-over of Wholesale Trade in Rice for the Kharif season 1973-74 are currently under examination in consultation with the State Governments, Financial requirements will be settled after the above are finalised.

2. The Agricultural Prices Commission recommended that the procurement price for paddy for 1973-74 season should be fixed uniformly throughout the country at Rs. 63.00 per quintal. This has been accepted by Government as the support price and procurement prices will be fixed at the beginning of the harvesting season.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: The statement says that the Agricultural Prices Commission has recommended the procurement price of paddy for 1973-74 to be Rs. 63 per quintal. I would like to know how this has been worked out.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: This was originally the recommendation of the APC for procurement prices. But the Government of India decided that these prices should not be treated as procurement prices but as support prices. Therefore, the Government of India has left the option open to fix the procurement prices for the coming season. The basis on which the APC made the recommendation is, they collected data

from the State Governments. They also collected the data about cost of production and all these were taken into consideration.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: May I know how this commission has worked out the details about cost of cultivation, the cost of wages for agricultural labour etc.?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: All these factors are taken into consideration including the wage structure prevailing in various parts of the country. When this report was prepared, the data was collected from universities and State Governments. Now the data about cost of cultivation under the comprehensive scheme is also being made available to the APC.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: In view of the present position of rains and the likely good crop, may I know if the Government has taken a firm decision about taking over the wholesale trade in rice or is there any vacillation on account of representations made from certain States in this policy?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: In the main part of my reply, I have given the answer to this question in the statement.

SHRI PILOO MODY: He can repeat it.

MR. SPEAKER: Members are expected not to ask questions about matters covered in the statement. Anyhow, he can answer it if he wants.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The statement reads:

"Operational details for the take-over of wholesale trade in rice for the kharif season, 1973-74 are currently under examination in consultation with the State Governments. Financial requirements will be settled after the above are finalised."

SHRI VASANT SATHE: My question was different. I asked whether

the Government is firm on the policy of take-over of rice. Is this a reply to my question.

**SHRI DINESH SINGH:** Unless they announce the policy now, it will be impossible to make the arrangements.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Otherwise, they will have the same difficulty as they are now having in regard to wheat. Therefore, we must know clearly where we stand.

**SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI:** My question is very simple. People are really thinking that the policy of the Government in regard to rice take-over is yet to be evolved because no categorical announcement has yet been made. So, there is a lot of confusion. Now the monsoon has started let the Government make a categorical announcement that the Government are firm on the take-over of rice trade.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** The organisational details are being discussed. I do not think I can say anything now.

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA:** After the experience of the take over of wheat, which was a stunt which ended in a fiasco, may I know whether the Government considers it feasible to take over the wholesale trade in rice?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** I do not at all agree with the premise of the question. Moreover, I do not think it is correct to come to the conclusion that the wheat take-over was a failure merely because the target of procurement was not achieved.

**SHRI PILOO MODY:** What is the acid test of success if not procurement?

**SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:** After the experience of the wheat take-over, I am going to tell the Minister that the take-over of the rice trade will be a failure.

**MR. SPEAKER:** It is not a supplementary. Ask a supplementary question.

**SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:** In view of the short supply and high cost of fertilizers, have the Government calculated the cost of production of rice? Are they prepared to fix the procurement price of rice at Rs. 100?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** The procurement price would be announced by the Government at the appropriate time before the harvest starts.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

**Damage to Sugarcane in Tirhut Division of Bihar due to Pyrilla pest**

**SNQ 3. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pyrilla pests are damaging the sugarcane crop in about 2.5 lakh acres in Tirhut Division of Bihar as a result of which there is great concern among the cane growers;

(b) whether this is likely to curtail the production of sugar in the Sugar Mills of this area to a great extent; and

(c) the special steps being taken by Government to give relief to the cane growers?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. AHMED):** (a) to (c). There was a severe attack of Pyrilla pest on sugarcane in an area of 3.07 lakh acres in Tirhut Division of Bihar. In March-April 1973, the State Government started immediate control operations. Aerial and ground spraying of pesticides was done on an area of 2.92 lakh acres. The Central Plant Protection Station at Bihar Sharif also assisted the State Government in the control of the pest cut-break. The sugarcane growers were alerted and advised through All India Radio broadcast to take proper plant protection measures. A leaflet entitled "PAUDHA SANRAKSHAN SANDESH" giving details of the habits and habitat of Pyrilla and suitable control measures was distributed among the growers.