

SHER SINGH) : (a) The shares of the Tarai Development Corporation have been purchased by 1022 farmers of Tarai area, from the National Seed Corporation and Uttar Pradesh Agricultural University. There are 6 farmers, who are on the Board of Directors of the Tarai Development Corporation, one of the farmers is also an industrialist. Two of them have holdings less than 100 acres, another two between 100-200 acres, fifth holding 200 acres and the sixth holding 700 acres.

(b) There is no farmer, participating in the Tarai/Seed Development Project, who has holding upto ten acres.

Exploration by National Coal Development Corporation in Hazaribagh District

4241. SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the area explored by National Coal Development Corporation in Kedla and Taping Block of Hazaribagh District which has been released to the Receiver of Bokaro & Ramgarh Ltd for further exploitation ;

(b) whether that Receiver on their behalf has distributed to private entrepreneurs in the name of Managing Agency ;

(c) if so, how many private entrepreneurs have been allotted in those blocks ;

(d) whether this is in accordance with Industrial Policy Resolution of having mineral industry in Public Sector ; and

(e) whether similar efforts are being made by private parties to get other areas explored by N.C.D.C. released from Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) to (e). The National Coal Development Corporation prospected 3000 acres and 2160 acres in Kedla and Taping blocks respectively. The area is under notification under Coal Bearing

Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957 for exploitation by N.C.D.C. The entire property is, however, in dispute between State Government of Bihar and M/s. Bokaro & Ramgarh Ltd. in the Court of sub-ordinate Judge, Hazaribagh in Title Suit No. 16 of 1961. The Court has appointed an officer of Bihar Government as Receiver for the property. As the matter is *sub-judice*, it will not be appropriate to furnish the other information asked for.

Scarcity Areas in Various States

4242. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of various areas which the State Governments have declared as scarcity areas this year also ; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to remove such shortage of food-grains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) In Bihar State, an area covering 20 blocks in 8 districts has been declared famine affected area. Scarcity conditions have been reported by the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mysore and Rajasthan. A statement showing the details of prevalence of famine and scarcity conditions in the country is attached.

(b) It is the responsibility of the Government of the State concerned to meet the shortages of foodgrains in particular areas of the State. The distribution of food-grains procured within the State as well as those received from the Central Pool and determination of the needs for such distribution in different areas of the State is the concern of the State Government. So far as the Central Government are concerned, allotment and supplies of foodgrains to different States from the Central Pool are made after taking into consideration the requirements of all the States requiring assistance and the over-all availability in the Central Pool.