

and the very high yields thereby Government have conducted a country-wide survey to ascertain the costs of agricultural production in different regions of the country specially for cereals ; and

(b) how long back this was carried out and what are its findings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b). The Government of India have approved a comprehensive scheme for studying the cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops, including cereals, in a phased manner, in different regions of the country. The required information will be collected from a sample of cultivators systematically for the study. Necessary sanctions for the implementation of the Scheme in fifteen States have been issued recently. In some of these States, the agencies entrusted with the implementation of the Scheme have already started collection of data while in others they are undertaking the preliminaries connected with the selection of sample cultivators.

East Pakistan Refugees Settled in Purnea (Bihar)

565. SHRI D. K. PANDA : Will the MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the East Pakistan refugees settled in Purnea District of Bihar had recently come to New Delhi to represent their case to the Government ;

(b) if so, what are their grievances ; and

(c) the action taken to redress those grievances ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 56 families from Kishanganj and 6 families from Madhubani, in Purnea District

of Bihar, came to Delhi on 7-4-1971. All these families have been re-settled in small trade.

The families from Kishanganj represented that they should be given further loans for running their business. They also said that the homestead plots allotted to them had many pits and holes, on account of which they had to spend more money on the levelling of the area before building the houses.

The main grievance of the families from Madhubani was that, because of a 'nala' between the colony and the Purnea town, they were facing difficulty of communication. It was also represented that 10 families of this colony were not being allowed to do business in the Maranga (Purnea) camp premises and that they had been served with notices to vacate the business plots in the camp.

(c) An officer of this Department visited these colonies in the last week of April, 1971, and discussed the problems of these settlers with the officers of the State Government.

The following action has been taken for the rehabilitation of these families :—

Kishanganj Colony.

The Government of Bihar had sent 67 families of East Pakistan migrants for resettlement in small trade/business in this Colony in March, 1969. A sum of Rs. 1,30,542.70 has been spent on the development of the residential area, on such items as the levelling of the ground, sinking of nine tube-wells, construction of road, drains and 36 septic latrines etc. Details of further assistance given to these families are as under :—

Nature of assistance	No. of families
1	2
(i) Business loan varying from Rs. 1,200/- to Rs. 2,000/- per family, depending on the nature of trade.	67

1	2
(ii) House construction loan @ Rs. 2,000/- per family.	67
(iii) Loan for construction of business premises @ Rs. 500/- per family.	59

The families were also given maintenance assistance, as admissible to small trader families.

Five families deserted, after getting the first instalment of loan. Three families, being milkmen, did not need loan for the construction of stalls.

The Government of Bihar has not recommended the grant of any additional loans to the families settled at Kishanganj.

Madhubani Colony.

The Government of Bihar have recently forwarded the estimates for the construction of a road with hume pipe culverts to facilitate communication between the colony and the town. The proposal is receiving attention.

It has been reported that these families were carrying on business at the Purnea Camp in an unauthorized manner.

Coal Mines Provident Fund Office, Asansol

566. SHRI D. K. PANDA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the serious corruption and other malpractices in the Coal Mines Provident Fund Office at Asansol ;

(b) whether any enquiry has been made regarding the functioning of that office ;

(c) if so, when and by whom ; and

(d) the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : The administration of the Coal Mines Provident Fund is the concern of the Board of Trustees, Coal Mines Provident Fund, set up under the Coal Mines Provident Fund, Family Pension and Bonus Schemes, Act, 1948 and is not the direct concern of Central Government. The Coal Mines Provident Fund Authorities have reported as follows :—

(a) Some cases of wrong payment have been detected in the Regional Office, Asansol. A general complaint of corruption in that office has also come to notice.

(b) to (d). The question of a probe into the matter of wrong payments has already been taken up with the appropriate agency. Steps have also been taken to minimise cases of corruption which emanates mainly from cash payments. A proposal to restrict the system of cash payments is under consideration of a Sub-Committee set up by the Board of Trustees. In the meantime, some members of the staff have been transferred from the Asansol office.

Expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant

567. SHRI D. K. PANDA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the expansion plan for the Bhilai Steel Plant has been finalised ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the estimated cost of the plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) to (c). A feasibility study on the expansion of the Bhilai Steel Plant prepared by the Central Engineering and Design Bureau of Hindustan Steel Limited indicated that the Plant could be expanded from its existing capacity of 2.5 million of steel ingots to 4.2 million tonnes steel ingots per annum, at an estimated cost of Rs. 227 crores.