

(b) District-wise number of tube-wells out of order as in 1950-51, 1968-69, and 1971-72 ;

(c) the number of new tube-wells sunk in each district including Calcutta between April, 1 and June 30, 1972 ; and

(d) how many of the new tube-wells in each district are in operation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected from State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as and when received.

Misuse of Facilities meant for Backward Class

1184. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF :
SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether facilities meant for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes were being issued by some people, specially in the State of Mysore, by producing false certificates ; and

(b) if so, the measures adopted by Central Government in this regard to determine the Backward Classes ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : (a) Some cases have come to notice which have been referred to the concerned authorities for necessary action. The Government of Mysore has been asked to furnish information in this regard.

(b) The Central Government have empowered certain authorities in the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for verification of the claims of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for issue of Caste certificates and it has been impressed upon these authorities that proper verification be done before issue of certifications.

Incentive to marginal farmers for more Economical Holdings

1185. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF :
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given any

incentive to the marginal farmers over the lands to make their holdings more economical, so far as Ceiling is concerned ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b). Under the Central Sector Scheme 41 M. F. A. L. Development agencies set up in various selected areas of the country, to assist marginal farmers, who have holdings generally below one hectare, to take to improved agriculture and mixed farming with subsidiary occupations such as dairy, poultry and piggery. These M. F. A. L. agencies extend subsidy to identified marginal farmers up to 33-1/3% for investment towards capital expenditure for Agriculture, Minor Irrigation, Animal Husbandry, Poultry, Piggery, etc. in order to help them to go in for investment credit. Provision has also been made to grant subsidy upto 33-1/3% on value of inputs such as fertilizers, seeds, pesticides etc. The Agencies provide risk fund contribution at 11% in respect of short and medium term loans and 3% in respect of long term credit to co-operatives to induce them to increase the flow of credit to this weaker strata of farmers.

Report of the Committee appointed to study decline in Coconut Oil Price

1186. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF :
SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee appointed to study the decline in the price of coconut oil has submitted its report ; and

(b) if so, the findings of the committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAM P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement indicating the findings of the Study Team on Coconut situation in Kerala is attached.

Statement

Recommendations of the Study Team on Coconut situation in Kerala.

I. Short-term recommendations.

1. Hedging facility with the usual regulatory measures will not only stabilise prices

but also slightly elevate it to the benefit of the grower during the peak season.

2. The coconut oil may not be treated as an edible oil because only 25 to 33% of it is used for edible purposes and the rest of it is used for the non-edible purposes. Because of this, credit facilities should be liberalised to the maximum extent possible.
3. If the price of oil falls below the minimum level, Government may initiate price support measures.
4. The possibility of restricting imports of copra may be examined and restricted only to the lean season.
5. The imports of mutton tallow may neither be increased nor decreased.
6. The imports of edible oil may also continue as before.
7. There should be adequate provision of wagon for the movement of copra and coconut oil.

II. Long-term recommendations.

1. There is need for controlling the root wilt disease to increase the productivity.
2. It is also necessary to examine whether inter-cropping of coconut with arecanut trees, pepper vines, tapioca, etc. is desirable or not.
3. Only a fraction of the total area under coconut is irrigated and this is a factor limiting the use of organic manures and chemical fertilisers. It may be necessary that more common wells and tube-wells should be provided for extending irrigation.
4. Those marketing societies having expellers should have adequate mechanical driers.
5. There is need for periodical fumigation as copra is found to be infested due to atmospheric changes.
6. The copra milling industry should be modernised.

Purchase of Fertiliser from East European Countries

1188. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the mode of purchase of fertilisers from

East European countries and countries other than the Eastern Block countries;

(b) the total quantities of fertilizers which the East European countries had committed to supply this year under the Annual Trade Plan and how do they compare with the quantities actually supplied; and

(c) whether as a result of short supply of fertilisers by the East European countries, Government had to make rush purchases from other sources thereby paying very high prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) Fertilisers are purchased from the following East European countries viz. Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, U. S. S. R. and German Democratic Republic against specific provisions in the Trade Plan agreements concluded with the Governments of these countries. The purchases are negotiated and contracts are entered into by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation on behalf of this Ministry.

(b) Two statements are laid on the Table of the House to show the supply situation against the Trade Plans and contracts of 1971 and 1972. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3304/72]. It will appear therefrom that by and large, the quantities actually contracted for supplies have been smaller than in the Trade Plan and that there have been generally delays in the delivery of fertilisers within the agreed period.

(c) As against 7.5 lakh tonnes of urea expected by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation to be available from the East European countries for use in Kharif, 1972 and Rabi 1972-73, only about 1.00 lakh tonnes of urea are likely to arrive. Only a part of this shortfall of 6.5 lakh tonnes of urea could be made up through purchases from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Japan. The prices paid for these purchases were no doubt not higher than those paid to Poland and Russia, but they had to be paid in 'free foreign exchange'. However, Romania and Bulgaria from whom fertiliser supplies were expected in 1972, have been asking for prices higher than those paid to suppliers in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Japan.