

urgent reminders of the Central Government for the finalisation of their views on the report of Hindu Religious Endowment Commission; and

(b) the names of States who are still the defaulters?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Jaganatha Rao):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Kerala and West Bengal.

Conference of Food Ministers of Southern States

106. Shri Maniyangan: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of the Food Ministers of the Southern States was held at Madras to consider the question of fixation of prices of rice and other foodgrains; and

(b) if so, the decision arrived thereat?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decisions were that maximum prices of rice both at wholesale and retail levels should be fixed and the Government should exercise its powers to enforce these prices and to take drastic action against the profiteering elements in the trade.

Japanese Method of Cultivation

107. { Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Gokaran Prasad:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Japanese Survey Team of Agriculture Experts who recently visited India has been received by Government;

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to open four more units in different parts of the country to popularise the Japanese method of cultivation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Yes, four more Japanese demonstration farms are proposed to be established at Bapatla, District Guntur (Andhra Pradesh), Changamanad, District Ernakulam (Kerala), Khopoli, District Kolaba (Maharashtra) and Mandya (Mysore). The details in respect of these farms have not yet been finalised.

Scarcity Conditions in Gujarat and Rajasthan

108. { Shri Solanki:
Shri Kapur Singh:
Shri Narasimha Reddy:
Shri Rama Chandra Mallick:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 278 on the 2nd June, 1964 and state:

(a) the latest scarcity conditions in Gujarat and Rajasthan; and

(b) whether there has been any serious loss to our cattle wealth or human lives as a result of famine?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) As a result of the failure of monsoon in 1963, 14 districts in Rajasthan and 5 districts in Gujarat were affected with scarcity conditions. Circumstances have changed this year. There have been good rains all over the two States from the beginning of the current monsoon season.

Crash of Flying Club Plane

109. { Shri Solanki:
Shri Narasimha Reddy:

Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plane belonging to Madhya Pradesh flying club crashed near Bhopal on the 15th July, 1964;

(b) if so, the cause of the accident; and

(c) the details of casualties?

The Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The accident is still under investigation.

(c) The student pilot, who was the sole occupant of the aircraft, was killed.

Working of Co-operatives

110. { **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**
Shri P. C. Boroach:

Will the Minister of Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study group has been appointed to examine the working of co-operatives in the intensive agricultural programme areas;

(b) the constitution of the working group and its terms of reference; and

(c) when the report will be submitted?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3006/64].

(c) By about the end of January, 1965.

Godowns for Fertilizers

111. { **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**
Shri P. C. Boroach:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the State Governments have been asked to build a godown for fertilizers and seeds for every four or five villages?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri

Shahnawas Khan): The State Governments have been asked to construct godowns at various levels such as village, Mandi & Railheads in the districts selected for intensive cultivation programme with a view to bringing supplies within easy reach of farmers. It is, however, not necessary to build a godown for every four or five villages. It would mainly depend upon other considerations such as means of communication, quantum of supplies required to be stocked etc.

Seizure of Khandhari in U.P.

112. **Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stocks of Khandhari sugar in Uttar Pradesh were seized in pursuance of any policy of the Central Government; and

(b) if so, whether it is the policy of Government to stop free deals of all kinds of sugar manufactured in the country?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. B. Chavan): (a) The stocks were frozen and not seized by the Uttar Pradesh Government in consultation with the Central Government.

(b) The policy is formulated according to circumstances prevailing from time to time. The policy at present being adopted is indicated in the Sugar Control Orders issued by Government.

Agricultural Research

113. **Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has appointed a committee to study the problems arising out of the indiscriminate use of pesticides, insecticides and fungicides; and

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the committee?