

(KfW), a techno-financial agency of Federal Republic of Germany, provides for scheme for Site and Services/Core/Skeletal housing etc. meant for the Economically Weaker Sections of Society in urban areas.

The offer of loan for DM 20 million (equipment to Rs. 8.00 crores) will be open upto 31st December, 1987.

(c) and (d) : As per the terms of the present agreement, the loan is confined to urban areas only.

Production of Ragi

*824 SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of Ragi per hectare was 1183 kgs. in 1978-79 which has dropped to 1105 kgs. in 1982-83 and if so, reasons for this decline in performance;

(b) what was the yield in 1983-84 and 1984-85; and

(c) whether Government will revamp its Agriculture Research and Development Wing at the earliest ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) and (b) : The production of Ragi per hectare was 1183 Kgs in 1978-79, 922 Kgs 1982-83 and 1150 Kgs in 1983-84. The decline in productivity during 1982-83 was due to severe drought conditions faced by the principal producing States in the country. Final estimates of area and production for the year 1984-85 have not yet been received from all the States. However, on current assessment the productivity is likely to be lower as compared to the previous year due to drought conditions faced in the main producing States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Research and Development Wing of the Government is continually geared to increase the productivity of all agricultural crops including ragi.

Production of Edible Mushrooms

*825. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated production of edible mushrooms in the country last year; and

(b) the schemes to promote the cultivation of mushrooms in a big way ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) There is no official data available on the production of edible mushroom in the country. However, it is roughly estimated at about 1000 tonnes per year.

(b) A project for the development of mushroom cultivation in Himachal Pradesh was implemented with UNDP assistance from November, 1977 to October, 1982.

A new project on mushroom production in India is proposed with assistance from Netherlands from implementation in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

Region/Project Offices of National Cooperative Development Corporation

*826. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) names of State where National Cooperative Development Corporation has its Regional or Project Offices ;

(b) whether there is Regional or Project Office of National Cooperative Development Corporation in Kerala; and

(c) whether Government propose to open an office of the National Cooperative Development Corporation in Kerala for implementation of the Corporation's scheme in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The Headquarters of the seven Regional Office by the National Cooperative Development Corporation are located in the States of Assam, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and the Union Territory of Chandigarh; and those of the seven Project Offices, in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) : The Regional Office at Bangalore, whose jurisdiction extends to Kerala, looks after formulation of and monitors the implementation of, the Corporation's scheme in Kerala.

Farming Methods

*827. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the farmers in Madhya Pradesh are unable to adopt developed methods of farming;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) and (b) : No, Sir.

(c) Steps taken by Government to increase awareness and adoption of modern farm methods include the following : (i) Farmers are made aware of improved farming methods through systematic transfer of technology under Training and Visit system of farm extension. (ii) Farmers are also made aware of improved methods through farm fairs, organised study tours, and field demonstrations with a view to increasing their adoption of modern technology in crop production. (iii) Research-extension linkage is strengthened so as to generate appropriate farm technologies for varying agroclimatic conditions, and according to resource capabilities of farmers, and (iv) Farm information support is also extended through mass-media etc. for making the farmers aware improved farming methods.

Floor Price of Cotton Fixed by APC

*828. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Agriculture Prices Commission has fixed the floor price of cotton and if so, what is the price;

(b) how does this price compare with the near average market price of the different types of cotton during the year 1984; and

(c) what is being planned to bring floor price nearer to the market price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The Government fixed the support prices of cotton for 1984-85 season at Rs. 410 per quintal for F-414/H 777 variety and Rs. 535 per quintal for H-4 variety as recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission, renamed as Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

(b) Till October, 1984, the average market prices of different varieties of cotton were much above the support