

Co-operative Sector

*910. **Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudhary:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount invested so far in the co-operative sector;

(b) how much of the above is contributed by the Centre, the Reserve Bank and the States; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to meet the growing demand of the Co-operative Sector?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy): (a) Total share capital invested is estimated at Rs. 377 crores (approx.).

(b) Investment in share capital by States is estimated at Rs. 79 crores (approx.). There is no direct investment in share capital by the Centre or the Reserve Bank, but assistance is provided by them to the States.

(c) It is expected that the outlay on the cooperative development schemes during the Fourth Plan would be of the order of Rs. 206 crores. In addition, the Reserve Bank and other financing institutions would be providing loans to State Governments/Co-operative institutions for cooperative programmes.

Ghost Ration Cards in Delhi

*911. **Shri Baburao Patel:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri A. K. Kisku:
Shri S. N. Maiti:
Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Atam Das:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri K. N. Pandey:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there are over a mil-

lion ghost ration cards in Delhi alone enabling the sale of foodgrains in the black market;

(b) the practical steps taken by Government to trace these ghost ration cards and punish the culprits; and

(c) the number of persons arrested so far in this connection during the last six months and the punishment awarded to them?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) No, Sir. There are no doubt ghost ration cards in Delhi but it appears improbable that the number would be so large as mentioned in the question.

(b) In order to unearth ghost ration cards special drives like mass checking of households by detailing a large staff are now being organised. Prior to the starting of these drives, an appeal to the public for voluntary surrender of ghost ration cards was made.

(c) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-886/67].

Credit Facilities in Drought-affected Areas

*912. **Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study, enquiry, assessment, review has been made recently to examine the credit facilities being made available to the farmers of the famine, drought-affected areas; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In areas affected by drought the defaulters of cooperative loans have