

from the Market at Nagpur and Akola after completion of all formalities. In this transaction NCCF is reported to have earned a considerable amount as net profit. In view of the above, the question of taking disciplinary action against Shri K. G. Kulkarni, Regional Manager does not arise.

Long term plan for rainfed dry-land areas

2171. SHRI PRITHIBI SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any long term plan has been formulated to tackle the problems of agriculture in the rainfed dryland areas in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Government have been pursuing appropriate research and development strategies to tackle the problems of agriculture in rainfed/dryland areas so as to promote integrated development on Watershed basis. While research support is being provided on a continuing basis, the development strategy focusses attention on land improvement and rain-water management with emphasis on adoption of affordable and replicable technologies and *in situ* moisture conservation techniques as well as introduction of improved crop production systems and alternate land use systems like afforestation dryland horticulture and pasture development based on proper analysis of land capability and rainfall pattern. This approach is operationalised through various Central and State sector programmes.

Labour Courts/Tribunals in the country

2172. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Labour Courts/labour tribunals in the country are not functioning according to the expectations of the workers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 envisages setting up of Industrial Tribunals and Labour Courts in the Central Sphere as well as in the State Sphere. In so far as the Central Government is concerned, 11 Central Government Industrial Tribunals (CGIT)-cum-Labour Courts have been set up in various parts of the country to deal with the industrial disputes and applications in the Central Sphere. In States where there are no Central Government Industrial Tribunals (CGITs) these disputes are referred to State Industrial Tribunals. In so far as the disputes and applications in the State sphere are concerned, Industrial Tribunals and Labour Courts have been set up by various State Governments and Union Territories to settle them. The disposal of the disputes and applications by the Labour Courts and Tribunals is sometimes delayed on account of:

(i) Stay order granted by various High Courts.

(ii) Delay in filling of the vacancies of the Presiding Officers due to non-availability of Judicial Officers.

(iii) Lack of education amongst workers in understanding the procedure resulting in delay in fielding proper statements and documents before these Courts/Tribunals.

(iv) Adjournment sought by parties to dispute.

(v) Backlog of cases.

The Ministry of Labour has prescribed certain norms for disposal of applications and industrial disputes by the Central Government Industrial Tribunals-cum-