

(c) During the Seventh Plan, the operations of cooperatives in marketing of agricultural produce is proposed to be expanded further for the benefit of the farmers. The measures to be taken for this purpose include strengthening of their capital base improving their operational efficiency through training of personnel, involvement of cooperatives in a large measures in market intervention operations and provision of better credit facilities to cooperatives for their marketing operations.

Closing down of Refractory Units of Burn Standard Co.

1355. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Burn Standard Co. Ltd. has applied for clearance to close its refractory units;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is Government's action thereon; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to help the employees likely to be rendered unemployed as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Management of Burn Standard Company Limited have given notices of closure of their Durgapur Works and Raniganj No.2 Works with effect from 20th May 1985 seeking permission of the Central Government for the intended closures under the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1982. The matter is under consideration.

Regulation of agricultural markets

1356. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of regulated agricultural markets in the country;

(b) what are the plans which have not been adequately provided by regulated market;

(c) what action Government propose to take to make up this deficiency; and

(d) what are the details of such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (d) According to provisional information from States and Union Territories, there were 5579 regulated markets in the country as on 31.3.1984. Since Agricultural Markets is a State subject, the State and Union Territories have been advised to prepare master plan for setting up regulated agricultural produce markets. Similarly, the States and the Union Territories, which have not yet passed appropriate Acts, have been requested to do so to provide for requisite legal framework for regulation of agricultural produce markets.

Death of Agricultural scientist

1357. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Secretary, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, recently died when he was called to office despite being unwell and on leave; if so, the name of the Officer, since when he had been ill, the nature of illness and the date of death;

(b) whether other senior officers of Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board have left service during 1983, 1984 or 1985; if so the names, the posts held by them at the time of leaving, the reasons for leaving and whether Government have investigated each case and if so, what are the findings thereof;

(c) what is the number of scientists employed, category-wise, in position as on 1st January, 1985 and the number, category-