

At the end of June 1980, the agricultural credit provided by the institutional agencies amounted to Rs. 2,550 crores.

(c) There are schemes under the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction, like Integrated Rural Development (IRD) programmes to provide financial assistance to the selected small farmers to improve their conditions.

(d) Government of India has decided to set up a National Bank for agricultural and rural development, which will function as an apex institution in the field of agriculture and rural credit. The Legislation for establishing the Bank will be introduced in the Parliament.

Central Fisheries Corporation

2673. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on January 28, 1981 and on several occasions since then it has been stated in writing that the Government of India is going into details about the future of the Central Fisheries Corporation but so far no indication has been given as to the final decision regarding the future of the Corporation;

(b) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of any definite decision the employees of the Central Fisheries Corporation are on the verge of starvation and a sense of insecurity prevails among them; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) The decision is likely to be taken shortly.

(c) and (d) The existing employees of the Corporation are being paid their salaries regularly.

Collection of Oilseeds

2674. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister had written to the State Governments regarding the collection of minor forest produce for the extraction of oilseeds;

(b) what measures have been taken by his Ministry to increase the collection of oilseeds of trees and other forest produce for assisting the scheduled castes and scheduled tribe;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued to the States for optimising the collection of oilseeds to stop import of vegetable oil?

(d) the names of States which have submitted Project Reports in the matter; and

(e) whether Government have formulated any scheme to give financial and technical support for collection of oilseeds of forest origin?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (MISS KAMLA KUMARI): (a) No Sir. However, guidelines have been issued to all the States to maximise collection of oilseeds of tree and forest origin.

(b) and (c) The following measures have been taken to increase collection of oilseeds of tree and forest origin:

(i) As Sal seed constitutes the bulk of the oilseed resources of tree and forest origin a sub-Committee was constituted to go into problems of fixing collection rates for Sal seeds on rational basis. The recommendation of the Committee