

NAFED. The Board of Directors are yet to take a final decision in the matter and communicate the decision to the Government.

**Canning factory for mangoes, lichis
Etc. in Bihar ..**

1923. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to set up a Canning factory for mangoes, lichis and other fruits in North Bihar;

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

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MISS KAMLA KUMARI): (a) to (c) It is proposed to set up an agro-industrial complex in Bihar in collaboration with the State Government and the Government of Bulgaria. The project envisages research in development of suitable varieties of vegetables, production of fruits and vegetables in a large contiguous area and setting up of processing and marketing facilities in the area so as to integrate production with processing and marketing.

The project is expected to cover 5,000 hectares in the Patna by-pass area and 5,000 hectares in Hajipur area in North Bihar.

A project report for the processing unit has been prepared by the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore and is under consideration. The report envisages a raw material handling capacity of 185 metric tonnes a day to produce 5141.5 metric tonnes of finished products a year and estimates the project cost at Rs. 313.61 lakhs. The product-mix includes mango pulp, tomato paste, pineapple slices, tithbits

and juice, canned litchi, and ready-to-serve beverages.

Electrification of Important railway lines

1924. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any plan to electrify the important railway lines between the metropolitan cities; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) An outlay of Rs. 450 crores during the current Sixth Five Year Plan has been approved and priority has been given to completion of Electrification of track between Delhi and Bombay followed by Delhi-Madras and other routes.

Supply of substandard goods to the consumers

1925. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to formulate laws to protect the interests of the consumers against the supply of substandard goods;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether Government would consider any such proposal; and

(c) if so, when legislation in this regard is likely to be enacted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF): (a) to (c) There are already a number of

laws/statutory orders which prescribe standards of quality, such as the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, the Fruit Products Order and the Essential Commodities Act, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, the Agricultural Produce Grading and Marking Act, the Indian Standards Institution (Certification Marks) Act, etc. Under these various Acts and Orders, minimum standards of quality of certain essential goods have been laid down to protect the interests of the consumers and these are subjected to periodical review.

Agricultural extension scheme

1926. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where centrally sponsored Agricultural Extension Scheme have been introduced;

(b) whether such schemes have been introduced in Orissa;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken for the development of cotton and cane cultivation in that State; and

(d) the total areas of land expected to be brought under the cotton and cane cultivation during the Sixth Five Year Plan period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MISS KAMLA KUMARI): (a) A centrally sponsored scheme on Strengthening and Reorganisation of Agricultural Extension Administration in the States was approved for implementation during 1977-78. Under this scheme central assistance was sanctioned for the five States of Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal during 1977-78 and was extended to 8 more States of Bihar, Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra

Pradesh, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura during 1978-79. The scheme has been transferred to the States w.e.f. 1.4.1979.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Cotton is a non-traditional crop industry. The present level of production is grossly insufficient to meet the requirements of the existing Spinning Mills. It is proposed to establish fourteen Spinning Mills in different parts of the States by the end of Sixth Plan Period. It is, therefore, necessary to extend cotton cultivation particularly in areas around the proposed Spinning Mills and in the Ayacuts of lift irrigation, point and dug-wells. Increase in the area and Productivity is sought to be achieved through education of the farmers by means of demonstration and training on improved methods of cotton cultivation. Multiplication of seeds of improved varieties will be continued for supply to the farmers. The cost of Plant Protection measures at the initial stage has to be subsidised to promote the cultivation of cotton in the State. The Centre for production of breeder and foundation cotton seeds has been established at Rayagada. 50 per cent subsidy on seed-cost has been provided.

Sugarcane cultivation will be extended in the areas of the existing Sugar Mills at Bargarah, Aska and Rayagada. The cultivation will be extended to the ayacuts of dug-wells and river lift points. Increase in the productivity is sought to be achieved through replacement of local varieties with quality planting materials. The farmers will be educated through demonstration and training on improved methods of cultivation.

(d) Areas under cotton in 1978-79 and 1979-80 were 7000 and 5000 hectares respectively. The production during these years was 7000 and 5000 bales respectively. The fall in area and production in 1979-80 was due to