

Guidelines to States for strengthening public distribution system . . .

283. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently issued any guidelines to States with regard to strengthening the public distribution system; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF): (a) and (b) In a letter sent to all Chief Ministers on 24-11-1981, Minister of Agriculture and Civil Supplies has drawn their attention to the need to take concerted action to strengthen the public distribution system.

In this connection, he has referred to certain guidelines and suggestions already given in the letter, dated 15th April, 1981, from Secretary, Ministry of Civil Supplies to all Chief Secretaries, and has further emphasised on the following:—

(i) to ensure a greater degree of coordination between procurement, transportation, storage and distribution of essential commodities, either the State Civil Supplies Corporation or the State-level cooperative organisations or both; need to be built-up where they do not exist and suitably strengthened where they are already functioning;

(ii) to make a thorough assessment of the situation to ensure proper and adequate supply of essential commodities through the retail outlets to remote and inaccessible areas;

(iii) as envisaged in the Sixth Plan, Cooperatives should play a much bigger role in the public distribution system, so that over a period of time, the entire network of retail outlets could be run by them;

(iv) to set-up consumer advisory committees at the State, district block and taluka levels comprising legislators, the panchayat representatives and the representatives of mahila mandals, etc.;

(v) to strengthen the district administrative apparatus and place only such officers in charge of these and related activities as have the necessary aptitude for and experience in this work. The supply set-up also should be strengthened to ensure adequate supervision and inspection of retail outlets at the district level; and

(vi) to ensure effective and timely monitoring of functioning of the system and to keep the Central Government apprised of it from time to time.

Assistance to small and marginal farmers in Rajasthan..

284. SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any schemes for assisting the small and marginal farmers from the Government of Rajasthan for implementation during 1982-83;

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

(c) whether the same have been approved by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) to (c) Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme, assistance is provided to a target group of rural poor, including small and marginal farmers, and this programme is under implementation in all blocks in the country including Rajasthan from 1980-81. Action plans for providing assistance under the Integrated Rural Development Programme are formulated by the District Rural Develop-

ment Agencies and these are approved by the State Level Coordination Committee. Proposals for providing assistance under the IRD programme to beneficiaries in Rajasthan in 1981-82 have already been approved and the proposals for 1982-83 are expected to be considered only in the first quarter of 1982-83. The outlay under the IRD programme in 1982-83 will be raised from the current year's level of Rs. 6 lakhs per block to Rs. 8 lakhs per block. The total outlay for the State in 1982-83 would be Rs. 18.56 crores. This amount will be shared on a 50 : 50 basis by the Rajasthan Government and the Ministry of Rural Development.

No other scheme appears to have been received from the Government of Rajasthan.

Complaints against the Central Institute for Cotton Research

285. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints against the Central Institute for Cotton Research; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Certain complaints have been received against the Director, Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur.

(b) An Assistant Director General from the Headquarters of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research was deputed in November, 1981, to visit the Institute and look into the complaints. Very recently the Deputy Director General (Crop Sciences) has also visited the Institute. Reports of both these senior officers have been received. Further action is being taken on the basis of the findings.

Development of Agro-Industries

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

(a) whether there is any plan under Government's consideration for the development of agro-industries during the Sixth Five-Year Plan period specially in Bihar;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) Question does not arise.

Statement

1. Under Small Scale sector all the 33 Districts of Bihar have been covered under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of District Industries Centre, which aims at development of cottage, village and small scale industries, dispersed throughout the area. All the District Industries centres have prepared detailed action plan for the establishment of industries in various sectors such as agro-based, mineral based, engineering based, textile based, chemical based etc. The agro-based industries to be set-up in various Districts of Bihar State include modern rice mill, fruit preservation and canning, dehydration of vegetables, dall mill, masala powder, cold storage, edible oils, lemon juice, bakery, ice candy, ghee and butter, gur and khandsari, straw-board, poultry feed, flour mill etc.

2. It is also proposed to modernise the existing rice mills and to set up new modern mills under Rice Milling Industry (Development and Regulation) Act and Rules with a view to