

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 31st March, 1976/the 11th
Chaitra, 1898 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock.
Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

Shrimati Ambika Soni (Punjab)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*481. [The questioner (Shri Janardhana Reddy) was absent. For answer vide cols. 37-38 infra]

*482. [The questioner (Dr. Z. A. Ahmad) was absent. For answer vide cols. 38-40 infra]

Assessment of the works of Development Agencies for small and marginal farmers and Agricultural labourers

*483. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the works of development agencies for small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers;

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

(c) the percentage of short term production credits allowed by the agencies to the agricultural labourers and small marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b) During the Fourth Five Year Plan under a Central Sector Scheme 46 Small Farmers Development Agency and 41 Marginal Farmers and 3 RSS/76—1

Agricultural Labourers Development Agency projects were set up in different parts of the country. The working of these Agencies was evaluated by the Reserve Bank of India and the Programme Evaluation Organization of Planning Commission. The Reserve Bank of India conducted their study in a total number of 13 SFDA and 13 MFAL projects and the P. E. O. in 21 SFDA and 13 MFAL projects. The report of the P. E. O. is still under compilation. The Reserve Bank of India have finalised their report in respect of the SFDA projects only. The important findings of the study of the operations of SFDA projects are indicated in the enclosed statement which has been placed on the table of the House.

(c) The SFDA/MFAL Agencies do not advance any Loans to Small/Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers, but mobilise credit through Cooperative/Commercial Banks for various programmes taken up for the above categories of farmers. Short term production loans to the tune of Rs. 30. 00 crores were advanced by the Cooperative and Commercial Banks to small/Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers in the SFDA/MFAL projects during the financial year 1974-75.

Statement

Some Important Findings of the study of the Operations of Selected SFDA Projects by the Reserve Bank of India for period ending 1972-73.

The study covered the operations of thirteen selected SFDAs with the period of reference as the year ending 1972-73. Some important findings of the studies are summarised below:—

Identification of Potentially Viable Small Farmers—The need for the introduction of differential norms for irrigation and unirrigated areas, owned land and lease-holds was clearly indicated. The lack of a criterion on the size of agricultural income (including income from dairy enterprise) resulted in the identification of many farmers who were already viable. A comparative analysis based on different criteria