

(d) The dairies at the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal and the Agricultural University Pantnagar, have one unit each for milk packaging and distribution through single service containers. Two similar units received under New Zealand assistance are presently being installed at the Worli Dairy in Bombay. The Govt. of Punjab have plans to set up six such units at Ludhiana through UNICEF assistance. The Tamil Nadu Government have also a proposal under consideration to install two units at the Madras Dairy.

OUTPUT OF FARM PRODUCTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

1725 **SHRI SITARAM KESRI** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the findings of the UNFAO that the output of farm products in the developing countries including India was far short of the targets

(b) if so whether the causes for the short have been examined and

(c) the steps taken to increase the production

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE) (a) In the document titled 'The State of Food and Agriculture, 1972' which has been brought out recently by the FAO of the U.N., it has been stated that in the Far East region agricultural production in developing countries rose by 2 per cent in 1971 against the 4 per cent annual increase recorded during the previous two years. As regards India the FAO document indicates that 'although India again had a good crop year its growth rate was lower'.

(b) Agricultural production in India, according to the All India final estimates of area and production for 1971-72 was lower than that in the previous year in the case of foodgrains, oilseeds and sugarcane and higher in the case of cotton, jute and tobacco. The decline in the production of foodgrains and certain other agricultural commodities in 1971-72 was mainly due to adverse climatic factors like drought in June-August 1971 in Maharashtra

Andhra Pradesh and Mysore, floods in parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal during August-September 1971 and cyclone in Oris during October 1971.

(c) Efforts are being made by the Government under the Fourth Five Year Plan to step up agricultural production through various measures envisaged under the New Strategy for Agricultural Development. These measures include (i) cultivation of high yielding varieties of seeds, (ii) development of multiple cropping, i.e. bringing additional area under crop production in the irrigated and assured rainfall areas, (iii) development of irrigation for intensive cultivation, (iv) soil and water management measures, (v) using a package of practices including high yielding seeds, optimum quantities of fertilizers and pest control measures, (vi) emphasis on research and its application, (vii) farmers training and education, and (viii) development of infrastructure of credit market and distribution system for supply of inputs etc.

PERFORMANCE OF THE NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

1726 **SHRI M. K. MOHTA**
SHRI K. I. SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the expert committee on the National Co-operative Development Corporation which made an assessment of the performance of the NCDC has made certain recommendations regarding widening of the activities of the NCDC and

(b) if so the details thereof and the reaction of Government with regard thereto

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is furnished in the attached statement.

STATEMENT

1. The Expert Committee on the National Co-operative Development Corporation has made the following main recommendations regarding the widening of the activities of the Corporation:—

(i) The National Cooperative Development Corporation Act, 1962 (Act 26 of 1962) may be extended to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(ii) Besides "agricultural produce" and "notified commodities", as defined in N.C.D.C. Act, 1962, the scope of the N.C.D.C. Act may be extended to cover dairy, fishery, poultry, minor forest produce, salt and tobacco.

(iii) The Committee has also recommended that the promotional and developmental role of the N.C.D.C. should cover the following aspects relating to initiation, coordination and evaluation of programmes:

(a) Coordination of activities of various agencies for implementing area development programmes through co-operatives.

(b) Liaison with various Ministries and organisations like the Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation, State Trading Corporation, Fertiliser Corporation, Cotton Corporation, Jute Corporation and other commodity organisations, with a view to creating favourable conditions for strengthening and expansion of business activities of co-operatives in the rural sector.

(c) Initiating cooperative pilot projects in strategic areas of agricultural development and providing technical and financial support for such projects.

(d) Provision of technical guidance, consultancy services and arrangements for training and research.

(e) Periodical evaluation of various cooperative programmes.

(f) The N.C.D.C. should also evolve and sponsor special economic programmes for assisting tribals, small farmers and other weaker sections of the rural

community. It should also stimulate the growth of co-operative activities in the agricultural sector in the relatively under-developed areas.

(iv) The financial role of the N.C.D.C. as recommended by the Committee, will include:—

(a) Provision of loans and grants to State Governments for co-operative programmes;

(b) Contribution to share capital of, and provision of loans and grants to, national/regional co-operative federations;

(c) Provision of finance/refinance to other cooperatives on the guarantee of State Governments.

2. The N.C.D.C. is already implementing most of the recommendations of the Expert Committee in regard to the scope of its activities, except these which require amendment of the present N.C.D.C. Act, 1962, proposals for which are under consideration of Government.

AGRICULTURE REFINANCE CORPORATION

1727. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the year ended June, 1972, the percentage of utilisation to the commitments made by the Agriculture Refinance Corporation declined from 71.4 per cent in 1970-71 to 70.8 per cent in 1971-72;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure that the resources of the Agriculture Refinance Corporation are put to best use for agricultural development in the country; and

(c) whether the Chairman of the Corporation has asked the State Governments to set up autonomous bodies for specific development purposes, e.g. soil conservation, tube well sinking, forest development and the likes; if so, what steps have been and are proposed to be taken to set up such autonomous corporations for tapping the Corporations resources for the best use of the nation?