

The trend according to the index numbers compiled in the Department of Agriculture is towards higher productivity, the index numbers having gone up from base line of 100 in 1949-50 to 130.1 for foodgrains, 107.9 for non-foodgrains and 126.6 for all commodities in 1967-68.

#### REPORT OF STUDY GROUP OF LABOUR LEGISLATION

696. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred question No. 548 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 1969 and state :

(a) whether Government have received the recommendation of the National Commission on Labour in respect of the report of the Study Group on Labour Legislation; and

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, by when it is likely to be received ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) No, Madam.

(b) The National Commission on Labour expects to submit its report by the end of August, 1969.

#### PILOT PROJECT TO MAKE SMALL FARMERS CREDIT-WORTHY

697. SHRI Z. A. AHMAD :  
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to launch a pilot project to help the marginally viable small farmers to become credit worthy and to take to intensive cultivation of high yielding varieties; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Madam. The Government have decided to launch a pilot project by establishing Small Farmers Development Agencies to help the marginally viable small farmers to become credit worthy and to take to intensive cultivation of high-yielding varieties.

(b) The main features of the Pilot project would be as under :

The Small Farmers Development Agencies would be set up in 20/21 selected districts throughout the country during the Fourth Five Year Plan. The Agency would be a registered society.

Agency will identify the problems of small but potentially viable farmers in its area and ensue the availability of services inputs and credit to them. It will draw up model plans for investment and production activities to be undertaken by these small farmers. It will coordinate the activities of the existing institutions cooperatives as well as private, local bodies such as Zila Parishad and others engaged in the supply of these services and inputs. The agency will provide grants to Central Cooperative Banks, the Agricultural Credit Societies and the Cooperative Land Development Banks to cover their loaning risks for financing such farmers, and to help them build up special funds for the purposes. It will provide subsidy to the cooperative institutions to strengthen their managerial and supervisory staff. It will arrange to provide custom services by supplying tractors, agricultural machinery, rigs, boring equipment on hire at reasonable rates to the small farmers. It will render assistance for development of animal husbandry and poultry to add to the income of the small farmers.

About 50,000 small farmers are likely to be covered during the period of Fourth Five Year Plan in each district.

The details of the schemes are to be finalised in consultation with the local institutions b) the Agencies. The scheme has yet to be approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee.

#### EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY THE STAFF OF DIRECTOR OF LABOUR BUREAU

698. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a lot of expenditure is being incurred as a regular feature by the officers and members of the staff of the Director of Labour Bureau, Simla, in the movement between Delhi and Simla for official purposes;

(b) what has been the expenditure during the year 1968-69;

(c) whether Government propose to shift the office of the Director of Labour Bureau to Delhi or to any nearby city like Faridabad; if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) how much expenditure is being incurred annually on tours by the field officers for various surveys all over the country;

(e) whether Government propose to entrust the work of collection of statistics and other material to the State machinery; and

(f) what steps are being taken to ensure speedy and reliable collection of data at a minimum cost ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) and (b) Expenditure incurred on account of tour to Delhi by the Officers and Members of the Staff of the Labour Bureau for official purposes was only Rs. 6,093 during the financial year 1968-69.

(c) There have been proposals from time to time for shifting the Labour Bureau from Simla to Delhi or Faridabad, but because of shortage of office accommodation at these two places, the shifting has not materialised.

(d) The expenditure on tour varies from year to year depending upon the number of surveys entrusted to the Bureau for execution. During the year 1968-69, the total expenditure on tours undertaken by Field Officers for various surveys was 1.20,312'00.

(e) The State machinery is already being used for collection of various kinds of data.

(f) The Director of the Bureau is constantly engaged in taking the necessary steps towards this end.

#### STUDY GROUPS' REPORT ON AGRARIAN REFORMS

699. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has considered the report submitted by the Study Group emphasising the need for radical agrarian reforms; and

(b) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) Yes.

(b) The recommendations made by the Sub-group on Land Reforms were taken into account in drafting the Section on Land Reforms in the Chapter on Agriculture in the Draft Fourth Five Year Plan 1969—74.

#### INCREASE IN PRICE OF RATIONED SUGAR

700. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to increase the price of sugar being supplied through ration shops; and

(b) if so, the extent to which and the date by which the price is proposed to be increased ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The Government of India have revised the ex-factory price of levy sugar produced in the year 1968-69 with effect from 29th July, 1969. The revised price is higher by Rs. 1-07, Rs. 1 -71 and Rs. 8-53 per quintal in the case of factories in Zone I, Zone II and Zone III respectively. The revised price in case of factories in Zone IV is lower by Rs. 4\*45 per quintal. In the case of factories in Zone V and Assam there is no change in price. The retail price of levy sugar distributed through ration shops is fixed by the State authorities on the basis of the ex-factory price fixed by the Central Government.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG DISABLED PERSONS

701. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that unemployment among the disabled persons in the Capital is increasing;

(b) if so, the number of disabled persons whose names are registered with the Employment Exchange, in Delhi;

(c) the number of disabled persons to whom employment opportunities were provided during the year 1968-69 and the number of those whose names are in the waiting list; and