

villages are proposed to be taken up by the All India Panchayati Raj Parishad to revitalise Panchayati Raj; and

(b) if so, the places where the pilot projects are proposed to be located ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) and (b) The All India Panchayat Parishad is a voluntary non-official organisation and the requisite information has been collected from it. It has been reported by the Parishad that the matters raised in this question are under its consideration.

INSTALLATION OF PUMPING SETS

*138. SARDAR D. K. JADHAV : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to instal more than 1,50,000 pumping sets a year in the country; and

(b) if so, the number of sets proposed to be allocated to Madhya Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

- STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Madam. It is proposed to instal about 6.00 lakh diesel and 12.5 lakh electrical pumpsets in the country during the IV Plan.

(b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has a tentative targets of installation of 14,000 diesel and 80,000 electrical pumpsets during the IV Plan. The State Government at present proposes to instal about 3,100 diesel and about 20,000 electrical pumpsets during 1969-70.

FOOD PROCUREMENT BY COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

*139. SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH BRAR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of wheat proposed to be procured by the Food Corporation of India during 1969-70;

(b) the agencies in various states through which the said wheat would be procured;

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the farmers in all the States get the prices fixed by the Centre;

(d) whether Government propose to entrust the procurement work to the Co-operative Societies only; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) About 2.8 million tonnes.

(b) It has been left to the State Governments to decide the agencies of procurement. Generally the agencies are the F.C.I., State Governments Co-operatives, State Marketing Federation etc.

(c) The State Govts. and the F.C.I. have been advised to purchase all grains of fair average quality offered for sale at the procurement prices fixed by the Government.

(d) and (e) Agencies for procurement are decided by the State Governments. The policy is to involve Co-operatives as far as possible and the Co-operatives have been involved in the procurement of wheat in varying degrees in different States.

RECOMMENDATION OF ENGINEERING WAGE BOARD

*140. SHRI ABID ALI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 246 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 1969 and state :

(a) what action has been taken by the respective State Governments with regard to the recommendation of the Engineering Wage Board and with what results; and

(b) whether the number of the persons employed in the Engineering Industry has been ascertained and if so, what is their number ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) Final replies from State Governments are still awaited.