

that is now available for this sort of dealing by unauthorised persons has been reduced to the very minimum and in the very nature of things, it is impossible to plug all the loopholes.

*97. [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jaipuria) was absent. For answer, vide col. 567 infra.]

COOPERATIVE FARMING SOCIETIES

*98. { SHRI N. SRI RAMA
REDDY†:
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of co-operative farming societies functioning in the country upto the 30th June, 1963;

(b) what are the types of these societies and how many societies are there under each type; and

(c) what is the smallest and the biggest size of land under cultivation in each of these societies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA): (a) At the end of June, 1963, there were 3358 co-operative farming societies.

(b) There are two types of co-operative farming societies—(i) joint farming, and (ii) collective farming. 2230 were joint farming societies and 1128 were collective farming societies.

(c) The smallest and the maximum size of land held by joint farming societies was 25 acres and 1100 acres respectively. In collective farming societies, the smallest and the maximum size was 50 acres and 2,000 acres respectively. The average area of the co-operative farming societies was 113 acres.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know if it is a fact that the Government have thought it fit to appoint a committee to go into the question of these co-operative farming societies and if so, what were the causes for appointing a committee of the type envisaged?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: The Government is not at all thinking of appointing any committee or study team on co-operative farming. It was already done earlier in 1959 and Mr. Nijalingappa, the present Chief Minister of Mysore, was the President of that Committee.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: May I know if the proposed Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution is intended to facilitate the formation of these co-operative societies on a larger scale?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: I am not in a position to answer that.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that in a seminar on co-operatives, it has been reported that in certain cases, these co-operative farming societies have been utilised to defeat the land reforms and, if so, what steps are being taken by the Government to prevent such occurrences?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: Sir, it is a fact that in certain cases this co-operative farming is defeating the land reforms but the number of cases and the percentage is very small. As a matter of fact, the Nijalingappa Committee, to which I made a reference, studied the working of 34 co-operative farming societies out of which three or four cases were like this. In the case of 21 production had increased and they were successful.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: May I know the distinction between collective farming and

joint farming? And secondly, is not this average area of 112 acres too low for co-operative farming societies?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: The distinction between collective farming and joint farming is that in the case of collective farming societies the ownership is with the societies but in the case of the joint farming societies the ownership is with the tenants and farmers as members.

As regards the size of the societies, whether this figure of 113 acres—that is the figure mentioned by me—is less or more, each State Government has defined the size, what should be the minimum and what should be the maximum. It varies from 25 acres of irrigated land in Kerala and Orissa up to 100 acres in some other States. So, 113 acres is not a bad size; it is a good size.

SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY: May I know the number of societies in each group and which of the groups is more profitable?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: Sir, only a limited study has been made by the Committee referred to by me. Out of the 34 societies studied, there was profit in as many as 21 societies. In the case of three societies all the details were not available and there was loss in seven or eight cases. I am not giving the percentage because extensive studies have not so far been made.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Last year a few teams of Parliament Members were sent to different regions to see the working of these farming societies. May I know if they have submitted their reports and what are their findings, in favour or against?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: Sir, 38 Members of Parliament of both Houses went to see the societies in four States, Uttar Pradesh, Mysore, Punjab and Maharashtra. They saw about 60 societies

and their finding, in general, was that societies in Maharashtra and Punjab, were very successful and in regard to Mysore and Uttar Pradesh, some societies were successful while some were not successful. If hon. Members want, I can lay a statement on the Table of the House.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: It will be good.

SHRI MAHESH SARAN: May I know if the Nijalingappa Committee made an assessment of co-operative farming and what was their assessment of production and profit?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: According to that Committee in about 23 societies out of 34 visited by them production had increased, employment for members had increased, employment even for non-members had increased and 21 societies had their reserve fund and share capital increased.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: What is the total amount of Government subsidy and total amount of Government loan which had been given to the collective and joint farming societies?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: Sir, during the Third Plan we have a provision of Rs. 12 crores for all types of co-operative farming societies. Earlier, each State had its own scheme and there was no sanction from the Central Government. Out of this sum of Rs. 12 crores we have spent about Rs. 2 crores so far.

SURVEY OF FOREST AREAS

*99. **SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Special Aid Fund has approved of an Indian project for surveying forest areas; and

(b) if so, the purpose of the proposed survey?