

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know, Sir, whether all the co-operatives have started working as service co-operatives?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: Not all the societies have been converted into service co-operatives. Only a portion of them have been converted, and new organisations have sprung up as service co-operatives.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know, Sir, whether the old co-operatives, which were converted into service co-operatives, are working satisfactorily?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, if it is obligatory for these service co-operatives to enrol non-agriculturists as members?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: The service co-operatives are intended to help agriculturists, both marginal and sub-marginal, and the rules of certain organisations at the village level permit it.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: With regard to the organisation of these service co-operatives, which State has made advanced progress during the last year and which State has done the worst?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: That requires time for us.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: What are the types of service which fall within the purview of these service co-operatives and which they usually perform? What kinds of services?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: The services rendered by these co-operatives are primarily to accommodate credit, to supply fertilisers, seeds, etc., and to

arrange also for the marketing of the members' produce through marketing societies.

CENTRAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

*154. **SHRI DHANANJOY MOHANTY:** Will the Minister of Food and AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack has so far recommended any special variety of submersion resistant paddy, roots of which would not rot even though the crop might be submerged under flood water for a week or two;

(b) if so, whether such a variety has been introduced anywhere in flood affected areas and with what result;

(c) whether the Institute has prescribed any remedy against the growth of wild paddy; and

(d) what is the estimated loss to the farmers in the country on account of the invasion of the wild paddy into the cultivated fields?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) The Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, has recommended Flood Resistant varieties F.R. 13A and F. R. 43B for flood areas in Bihar, Bengal and Orissa. These were developed formerly through the Research Schemes sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. New varieties are also being developed at the Institute. As paddy is a semi-aquatic crop the question of its rotting by submersion in water for a week or two does not arise.

(b) The above two and similar other varieties have been popularised by Extension Services in the different States and adopted by the Cultivators and have thus checked losses to a considerable extent.

(c) The Institute has recommended replacing Ryot's seed (which is contaminated) by pure seed and also transplanting and line planting where

practicable. Red-leaved rice varieties have been developed for Madhya Pradesh and Bihar to make easy hand-weeding of wild rice.

(d) Estimated loss caused by wild rice weeds is 1 to 2 per cent in Bihar, 2 to 3 per cent in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, and nearly 10 per cent in Kangra Valley. Loss in small areas in Andhra, Kerala, Bombay and Assam States not exceeding 15 per cent is also reported.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know if this wild paddy has made inroad into the seed farms maintained by the Community Development Blocks?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The origin of wild rice weeds is now traced to cross-pollination of rice varieties by a wild species which grows in ponds and low-lying areas, and we are trying to check the infestation.

PROPOSAL FOR AMALGAMATION OF I.A.C. AND A.I.I.

*155. SHRI BANSI LAL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amalgamate the Indian Airlines Corporation and the Air India International Corporation; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to implement the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI BIREN ROY: May I know what is the hitch? Why should they not amalgamate?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: This question of amalgamation has been considered from time to time. Even the Estimates Committee had considered it. We have also considered it, and for the time being at least it

was thought desirable that till further development of aviation in India took place the question might be postponed. It will be considered whenever it is necessary . . .

SHRI BIREN ROY: Is the only person who is obstructing Mr. Tata?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN? No, Sir.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Does the hon. Minister see that amalgamation will help us in reducing the overhead charges of the Corporation?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN? I am not sure if she overhead charges will be reduced.

SHRI M. R. BHARGAVA: May I know whether the A.I.I. or the I.A.C. Board have considered this question at any time and whether they adopted any resolution in this connection?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: I am not sure whether they adopted any resolution, but of course I am sure that the members of the Board had considered it at various times because on the Board there is a large proportion of common members.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is a fact that the I.A.C. sent a letter to the A.I.I. that the question of amalgamation may be considered?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: I am not sure what letter the hon. Member is referring to. I have not got any knowledge about it. It is a very general question.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: Is it a fact that the problems of the two organisations are entirely different and require specific treatment and, therefore, amalgamation might affect this consideration?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: That was one reason for the postponement of the amalgamation.