

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: No, Sir. They have just said something in their charter of demands which has been formulated by that Anti-Famine and Resistance Committee.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You do not even know the name?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: They have put forward certain points which were considered by the State Government.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that following the visit of the Secretary, certain policies were announced by the State Government as a result of which all the Opposition members except, I believe, the representatives of the P.S.P. left the State Advisory Board?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It is left to the Opposition. There is no element of compulsion by which we can persuade the Opposition party leaders to remain within the Committee. It was for them to remain in the Committee or leave it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Do I understand that this is the manner of fighting the food situation in West Bengal as far as the Central Government is concerned?

(No reply)

*316. [The questioner (Shrimati Savitry Devi Nigam) was absent. For answer, vide col. 1517 infra.]

MARKETING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

*317. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have recently asked the State Governments to expedite the formation of Marketing Co-operative Societies; and

(b) how many States have simplified their Co-operative laws?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI B. S. MURTHY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) New draft Co-operative Bill have been prepared by Madhya Pradesh, Bombay, U. P., and are being finalised by the State Government* before introduction in the State Legislatures. Other State Government* have also been advised by the Central Government to appoint small committees to revise and simplify co-operative law in pursuance of the decisions of the National Development Council.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know in how many States such marketing co-operative societies have begun to be formed?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: Most of these States are making preparations and there are already in existence about 1,065 societies.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether in any of these States, they have actually been formed?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: I have said, Sir, that they are already in existence. The plan for the Second Five Year Plan period is 1,900 societies and there are in existence today 1,065. And the target for the year is 440.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether any model co-operative rules have been circulated by the Centre to the various States?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: May I know whether all the existing cooperative societies have been asked to convert themselves into co-operative marketing societies?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: It is left to the State Governments to find out which societies are working quite well and which societies need rehabilitation.

TRAINING OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORK

*318. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to