

white sugar and 60 lakh tons for Gur and Khandsari to be achieved at the end of the Third Five Year Plan.

(b) No reliable data relating to production of Khandsari is available. The estimated production of Khandsari during 1956-57 and 1957-58 was, however, about 1.8 lakh tons and 2.25 lakh tons respectively." No estimate for production during 1958-59 season has yet been made. It is, therefore, not possible to say whether there has been any fall in production recently.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know what is the present sugar consumption *per capita* in India and whether it is sufficient from the nutrition point of view?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The present per capita sugar consumption is 11*4 lbs. of white sugar and 16 lbs. of Gur per annum and this is not considered to be sufficient from the nutrition standard.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: What steps are being taken to increase the production of sugar to keep the Indian people in health?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: As the honourable House knows, we have fixed a target of 25 lakh tons of white sugar to be achieved during the Second Five Year Plan period and then there are also schemes for increasing production of sugarcane by intensive methods and because of these methods, we think that production of Khandsari, Gur and sugar, all these, will increase.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know the amount of sugar that is exported to foreign countries and whether the production of Khandsari and Gur is being increased to meet the deficiency in health?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The quantity that we exported in 1957 was about 1.53 lakh tons; in 1958 we exported 50,000 tons. As the House knows, we have fixed a target of 1 lakh tons to be exported this year. Temporarily, we have allotted a quota for export of 50,000 tons.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know if Government propose to raise the

production of sugar by increasing the acreage of sugarcane cultivation or increasing the sucrose content of sugarcane?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Might be by the latter process. It will not be mainly by increase in acreage but by other means.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: In view of the very poor recovery of sugar that is produced in U.P. and Madhya Pradesh, may I know whether any steps are proposed at least in the Third Plan, for better plantation and for better recovery of sugar?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: In fact the Sugarcane Committee has drawn up a plan for that.

JOINT FARMING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

•115. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps which are being taken to popularise joint farming co-operative societies through service and marketing co-operative societies in the Union Territories; and

(b) the machinery which has been provided for educating the agriculturalists to take up to co-operative farming?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA): (a) For enabling the people to gain experience in simpler types of co-operatives, so that co-operative farming may eventually be introduced voluntarily, a scheme for organising marketing societies and credit societies is being implemented as a part of the Second Five Year Plan. Statements I and II indicate the progress of these schemes and the financial assistance given for this purpose." [See Appendix XXV, Annexure Nos. 8 and 9.]

It is proposed to accelerate this programme by inviting supplementary proposals from the Administration concerned.

(b) Classes for educating agriculturists (office bearers of societies, members of executive committee, members and prospective members) in co-operative principles and practices, including co-operative farming were held at centres shown in Statement III enclosed. [See Appendix XXV, Annexure No. 10.]

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know the number of existing joint farming and service co-operative societies in the Union Territories as well as in the other States of India and the percentage of families covered by these service and marketing cooperatives?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: In India at present there are 1,65,000 service co-operatives out of which about 1100 service co-operatives are in the Union Territories. Regarding co-operative farming societies, there are 2020 out of which 37 are in the Union Territories. Regarding percentage covered, about 20 per cent, of the rural population has been covered so far.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know the total acreage which is under these co-operative societies and their yield per acre as compared to individual farming, and the membership of these societies?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: Till 1956 the total area was 2" 9 lakh acres covered by these co-operative farming societies but since then about 460 more societies have come up. I think about another 60,000 acres might have been added.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know what the estimated expenditure and the target at present are because what I find from the statement is that they have been able to spend only about Rs. 40 lakhs? The estimate was for Rs. 141-5 lakhs and they could spend only Rs. 40 lakhs.

SHRI S. D. MISRA: The Plan outlay was Rs. 141-5 lakhs out of which it is correct that we have spent about Rs. 40 lakhs. We propose to spend the balance within two years. We hope to cover about 80 per cent.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether any loan has been taken from the Reserve Bank for this purpose?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: Yes. A loan has been taken from the Reserve Bank and also from the Government of India.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The hon. Parliamentary Secretary surely remembers the Nagpur Resolution which sets a target of 300,000 service cooperatives over a period of 3 years. Four months have passed. May I know since that Resolution was passed, how many service co-operatives or other co-operatives have been started since we have to start more than one lakh every year?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: It is true that 3 lakh co-operative societies are to be created within these three years but out of these 1,65,000 societies exist already in the country. We have to have only 1,45,000 more societies and this year regarding joint farming societies, we have our plan to have 600 societies out of which something must have come in the country.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Is it not a fact that many of these societies are not functioning? If it is a fact, what is the percentage of the non-functioning societies?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: It is true, Sir, that about 40,000 societies are defunct, are not functioning properly. N.D.C. have brought a resolution and the Working Group considered this matter. We are trying to revitalise these societies.

SHRI B. P. BASAPPA SHETTY: There seems to be opposition to some extent in the country to co-operative farming. May I know if there is any proposal under the contemplation of the Government to start experimental farms and then invite the people to see how they are successful?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: Experimental farms have already been started and evaluation has already been done, and certain societies have proved very successful in Baroda and elsewhere.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: Do these co-operative societies, one lakh and more, satisfy the tests prescribed by the Nagpur Resolution?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do the existing co-operatives satisfy the test? That is his question.

SHRI S. D. MISRA: Some of them 'yes'; some of them 'no', Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Even according to the figure given by the hon. Minister it seems that every year you have to set up 46,000 service cooperatives. In the four months that have passed since the Resolution, am I to understand that the rate of progress will be this and this is how you fulfil the Resolution?

(No reply.)

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS OFFICE IN THE DURGAPUR STEEL PROJECT AREA

•116. SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Posts and Telegraphs Office in the Durgapur Steel Project area; and

(b) if so, how many postmen are posted in that post office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, there are 4 departmental and 3 extra-departmental offices.

(b) 8 postmen in departmental offices and 1 postman and 1 extra-departmental delivery agent in extra-departmental offices.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know whether it is a fact that during the last three months there were no postmen in that post office due to which no letters and telegrams could be delivered to the people and even there was no arrangement for window delivery?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I do not know which particular post office the hon. Member is referring to, because

I have mentioned that there are as many as four post offices in the Durgapur area which are departmental, and there are three which are extra-departmental.

CATERING DEPARTMENT ON THE SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY

*117. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Catering Department on the South Eastern Railway is running at a loss;

(b) the total amount due to the Department from (i) the employees generally and (ii) officers in particular; and

(c) the total number written off during the last two years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes.

(b) As on 1st January, 1959, the amount due from staff on South-Eastern Railway towards sale of meals and stores on credit was as follows:—

(i) From non*-gazetted staff.—Rs. 1,50,000 (approximate).

(ii) From officers.—Rs. 33,000 (approximate).

(c) Nil.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It appears from the statement just made by the hon. Minister that the officers who must be fewer in number are in in great arrears with regard to their dues to these catering concerns.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it so?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: If so, may I know whether the Government has found out the reasons why the officers who are in a better position should have fallen into such arrears, and what steps the Government have taken in order to recover the outstanding dues? Has anything been done to recover the losses that are