

required information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Council in due course.

(b) The amount of bonus forfeited is not credited to Government but is credited to the 'Reserve Account' of the Coal Mines Provident Fund established under the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme, 1948. The exact amount forfeited during the years 1952 and 1953 is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Council.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know how the amount of bonus which is forfeited and credited to the account of the Coal Mines Provident Fund is disposed of?

SHRI ABID ALI: That is done according to the provisions laid down in the scheme.

LEGISLATION FOR FIXATION OF CEILINGS ON LAND HOLDINGS

*678. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have requested the State Governments to undertake legislation with regard to the fixation of ceilings on land holdings; and

(b) whether Government have received any representations in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) The recommendations of the Planning Commission have been commended to the State Governments.

(b) Some representations were received from Hyderabad and Himachal Pradesh.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: What steps have been taken by the State Governments so far?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The steps taken have been summarised in a recent publication by the Government and detailed information is available there.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is Government aware of Shri Vinoba Bhave's remark that he has taken up this movement of Bhoodan in order to teach the rich to sacrifice by asking the poor to give? If that is so, what steps are Government taking to teach the rich? Do Government think that the time has come to bring in legislation?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I think the ideas behind the two suggestions made by my hon. friend are quite distinct and different. All the same, the Government has fullest sympathy with the great work Shri Vinobaji is doing although Government is not taking direct action in the same manner. It is trying through the recommendations of the Planning Commission to achieve the same objective.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: How do Government hope to give land to every landless labourer and in what time?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: In the fullness of time we believe we will achieve something through the Planning Commission's recommendations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Much too large a question.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Have Government formulated any schemes for co-operative farming?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: There is a provision in the Planning Commission's report and it is the intention of the Government to encourage cooperative farming.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: How much land has been donated so far under the Bhoodan scheme of Shri Vinoba Bhave?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We have no statistics.

SHRI PRASADARAO: Is it a fact that the Minister for Agriculture has taken a stand in a Conference of Ministers of Agriculture against this ceiling?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: No. My stand has never been inconsistent with the recommendations of the Planning Commission.

SHRI PRASADARAO: Is it a fact that the Central Ministry of Agriculture has sent a circular to the States to see that the ceilings are put low?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We have cautioned them against putting the ceilings too low.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: May I know whether all the State Governments have agreed to take the land census according to the Planning Commission's recommendations?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Probably my hon. friend has Travancore-Cochin in view. There is a separate question with regard to Travancore-Cochin. Most of the other States are, I think, willing to take it up.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: What, in the opinion of the Government or the Minister of Agriculture, is the meaning of 'too low' in connection with the ceiling on land?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: 'Too low' means so as to reduce the individual to a status which we do not think would give him a living wage.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Does Government consider the figure of three times the family holding, recommended by the Planning Commission, as too low or too high?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We stick to the Planning Commission's recommendation.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Then what was the necessity on the part of the Minister to send a reminder to the States asking them not to fix the ceiling too low?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We have not discouraged them. This is merely a suggestion.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: What was the necessity

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Has the Government any scheme before it for the consolidation of smaller and uneconomic holdings into economic holdings?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The State Governments have schemes of consolidation of holdings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us not discuss the whole land policy now.

PRODUCTION AND PRICE OF SPICES

*679. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present prices of pepper, cloves, chillies and cardamoms;

(b) the reasons for the high prices of these commodities; and

(c) the quantities of these commodities produced in the country during each of the years 1952-53 and 1953-54, and the names of the countries from which these commodities are imported into India?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a), (b) and (c). Three statements giving the available information are laid on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix VII, Annexure No. 302.]

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: From the statement it is clear that the price of chillies has