

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING

The National Development Council in its two day deliberations in New Delhi drew up a programme for land reforms and cooperative farming to be implemented during the rest of the Plan period.

The Council endorsed the principle of cooperative farming on a voluntary basis. The Prime Minister, who initiated the discussion, emphasised the need for a programme based on consent and one which granted the right of withdrawal to the individual participants. He added that the co-operatives should be closely linked with the community development schemes.

It was agreed that security of tenancy should be ensured and that steps should be taken to review ejectments and "voluntary surrenders" which have taken place in the past three years.

It was further decided that all States should complete legislative measures for imposing ceilings on existing holdings by 1958-59 with adequate safeguards against evasion. States which had already enacted legislation should see that the programme was implemented within three years.

Ceilings on future acquisition of land should also be imposed in States where such action had not already been taken.

FOOD SITUATION

According to the statements made by the Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, Shri A. P. Jain, the food situation in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and South India can be summarised as below.

West Bengal

The centre has been supplying 10,000 tons of rice and 40,000 to 45,000 tons wheat per month for consumption in West Bengal. West Bengal needs 80,000 tons of rice during the current period. The State Government has a little more than 7,000 tons of imported rice in stock and has requisitioned another 8,000 to 9,000 tons of rice from the millers ;

thus the total supplies available with the State Government are of the order of 15,000 to 16,000 tons. The Central Government has agreed to meet the demand of the State Government for the supply of the balance.

Uttar Pradesh

Fifty-four thousand tons of wheat were made available to the U. P. Government in July and August and arrangements were in hand for the despatch of 40,000 tons in September. With the formation of the U.P. wheat zone and following large scale movement of foodgrains from the Western to the Eastern districts of the State, the food position in Eastern U. P. had improved.

FARMERS' SPECIAL VISITS MADRAS

The Farmers' Forum sponsored Kisan Special Train which started from Bulsar (Gujrat) on a round the country tour was accorded a rousing welcome when it reached Madras.

The farmers visited several important places in Madras including the Integral Coach Factory.

At the eve of their departure, Shri K. Kamraj Nadar, Chief Minister of Madras came personally at the Railway Station to address the farmers and bid them farewell.

The farmers will visit Rameshwaram, Madura and Mysore alongwith other places in the South.

At present 1,500 fair price shops are functioning in these districts.

South India

The surplus rice stock of Andhra was now available for consumption within the southern zone and short crops in some of the states were either in the making or were expected soon to be harvested. The Central Government had decided to stop the supply of imported rice in the Southern zone.

FARM OUTPUT TARGETS

The Union Agricultural Ministry has advised the State Governments to break down their agricultural production targets into constituent targets for each district, village and family.

The sixth Development Commissioners Conference at Mussoorie last April, recommended such a course of action as it was considered desirable that every individual and unit should have a specific programme of production.

The States have also been told to intensify programmes for establishing seed-farms, promoting dry farming practices and utilising irrigation facilities all of which are designed to increase the production potential.

WAREHOUSING BOARD

For development of warehousing schemes in the country, loans amounting to Rs. 7.5 lakhs (Rs. 2.5 lakhs to Orissa and Rs. 5 lakhs to Madras Governments) have been sanctioned by the National Cooperative Development and Warehousing Board for setting up of State Warehousing Corporations in the two States.

The Board has also sanctioned about Rs. 30 lakhs as subsidies and loans for development of large-sized cooperative societies in Bombay, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh for 1957-58.

AWARD OF GOPAL-RATNA

A certificate of 'Gopal Ratna' and Rs. 2,000, the highest prize in the first All India Milk Yield Competition for 1956-57, will be awarded to the Institute of Agriculture, Anand (Bombay), for a cow of the Kankej breed which yielded 44 lbs. 12 ounces of milk in 24 hours.

RAJASTHAN CATTLE FAIR

More than one lakh animals assembled for sale at the Parbatsar cattle fair, one of the largest and most famous fairs of Rajasthan, which was held from August 18 to September 4.

The total number of animals assembled for sale in the fair was 1,01,478 including 83,728 bullocks, 9,583 camels, 4,588 he-buffaloes, 560 horses and 2,992 donkeys. The rest were sheep, goats etc. Nearly 65,637 animals were sold in the fair. The total sale price of the livestock sold in this fair was Rs. 2,16,46,726.

The maximum price fetched by a bullock was Rs. 1,600 while a pair of bullocks was sold for Rs. 3,000, a camel for Rs. 900, a he-buffalo for Rs. 250 and a horse for Rs. 600.