

Govinda Menon): (a) At present, the offices of Food Corporation are functioning in eight States and as it gains experience, its activities would be extended to other States.

(b) In view of reply to part (a), this question does not arise. Besides trading in foodgrains is not one of the objectives of the Ware-housing Corporation.

Common Civil Code

***545. Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the provisions of the Hindu Code so as to cover other communities in line with the growing and changing patterns of society and advancement in social outlook; and

(b) whether Government appreciate the fact that different codes of law for different communities and castes militate against the concept of secularism and national integration?

The Minister of Law (Shri G. S. Pathak): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Civil Code administered in India is already uniform except in respect of personal laws. The Government however do not consider that lack of uniformity in matters of personal laws in any way detracts its authority from adopting appropriate measures for the purpose of upholding secularism and fostering national integration.

Prices of Foodgrains

***546. Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri M. L. Jadhav:**

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) the prices of wheat (imported and indigenous), rice, pulses, ghee and edible oils including vanaspati ghee on the 31st January, 1966 as compared to those prevailing on the 31st January, 1965;

(b) the percentage of rise in the prices of each of these commodities at the end of one year period that is, on the 31st January, 1966; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to bring down the prices of foodgrains?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) A statement showing the wholesale prices of wheat, rice, pulses, ghee and edible oils including vanaspati ghee in January, 1966 compared to those in January, 1965 is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5777 (i)/66].

(b) Another statement showing the percentage rise or fall in prices in respect of these commodities in January, 1966 over those in January, 1965 is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5777 (ii)/66].

(c) A statement showing the steps taken to bring down the prices of foodgrains is also laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5777 (iii)/66].

Assistance to States for introducing Rationing

***547. Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have been told that it would not be possible for the Centre to give any financial assistance for the introduction of rationing;

(b) whether this amounts to going against the commitment made to the States earlier; and

(c) the reasons for changing the previous decision?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) At the Chief Ministers' Conference held at New Delhi on 6-8-1965 it was decided that