

The accident is under investigation.

Supplementary Foods

*465. **Shri P. C. Borooah**: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Inter Ministerial Agriculture Production Board of the Central Agriculture Ministry proposed a scheme to increase the production of supplementary foods and their proper preservation before actual consumption;

(b) if so, what is the scheme;

(c) what is the present annual production of these foods; and

(d) what is the target set out under the scheme?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). No scheme, as such was proposed by the Board to increase the production of supplementary foods and their proper preservation before consumption. The Board, however, considered the following important programmes formulated by the Central Food Technological Research Institute and the Department of Food for the development of subsidiary, supplementary and diversified foods during the Third Five Year Plan:—

- (i) Development of improved foodstuffs like edible groundnut flour, multi-purpose food, macaroni products, and enriched wheat flour etc.
- (ii) Development of parboiled rice by improved techniques.
- (iii) Wax emulsion for successful storage and transportation of perishable foodstuffs.
- (iv) Infant food industry based on milk.

(c) A small production unit for the preparation of Indian Multi-purpose food which is one of the supplementary foods, is working at Coimbatore and its annual production capacity is about 1,000 tons.

(d) No targets under the expanded programme have so far been finalised.

Agricultural Programmes

*466. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri**: Will the Minister of Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some proposals for giving help in intensifying the agricultural programme through the Development and Extension Services Blocks have been communicated to State Governments;

(b) if so, details of the proposals; and

(c) the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

The Deputy Minister of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In the Community Development Programme special emphasis is being laid on increasing agricultural production.

2. To achieve this, instructions on the following lines have been issued to the State Governments;

- (i) VLWs should devote 70 to 80% of their time to activities under agriculture;
- (ii) To ensure that the VLWs, being key functionaries in this programme, devote sufficient attention to agricultural activities, their job chart has been revised and the State Governments have been requested to translate it into a time-table of operations depending on the local conditions;
- (iii) A model job chart for the Agricultural Extension Officer has been drawn up and sent to State Governments;