

(a) whether the Government propose to implement the recommendations of the National Capital Region Planning Board to move out some Union Government offices from Delhi to the proposed counter magnet towns;

(b) whether any time frame has been fixed for implementing this decision; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). As actual shifting depends upon a number of factors like availability of land, construction/hiring of buildings etc. no time frame for shifting has been fixed.

[Translation]

Water Supply Schemes of Uttar Pradesh

*435. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several schemes regarding supply of drinking water to major cities of Uttar Pradesh are pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when these schemes are pending; and

(d) the time by which approval is likely to be accorded to these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d). There is no Central Assistance for Water supply schemes for major cities in the

country. Consequently, the question of such schemes pending in Union Government does not arise. However, State Governments forward their project reports for technical clearance to the Government of India, before the same is posed for bilateral and multilateral assistance.

[English]

Oil Drilling in Bihar

*436. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign oil companies engaged in oil drilling in Bihar;

(b) since when these companies are working;

(c) the results achieved so far; and

(d) the number of rigs both Indian and foreign working at various places in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Nil.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) One Indian rig at Kadmaha.

[Translation]

Scheme for Persons Affected by Drought and Flood

*437. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to formulate any scheme for the people who lose their means of livelihood due to drought or flood; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALARAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b). Relief measures including employment generation schemes are undertaken by the concerned State Governments for the people who lose their means of livelihood due to drought or floods. These measures are financed out of the calamity Relief Fund, constituted on the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission with an annual allocation of Rs. 804 crores for all the States in addition to generation of employment under various on-going plan programmes.

[English]

National Edible Oil Grid

*438. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan of establishing a national edible oil grid to root out black-marketing and any possible shortage of the vital commodity has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be established; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to check price rise before the actual establishment of the grid?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b). National Dairy Development Board has a plan to set up a National Oil Grid with an objective to link the major oilseeds producing areas with the demand centres which would help in reducing wide fluctuations in the prices of oils over seasons and regions. The plan envisages:-

(i) creation of oil storage capacity at strategic locations.

(ii) establishing packaging stations across the country to pack edible oil.

(iii) developing an economical transport system to move oilseeds and oil from surplus to deficit zones.

(c) As part of this plan, NDDB has created storage capacity of about 2.7 lakh tonnes and packaging capacity of about 1.8 lakh tonnes per annum. NDDB has also introduced an economical transport system by road and coastal shipping. The work for creating an additional storage capacity of about 0.38 lakh tonnes of oil and the packaging capacity of about 0.23 lakh tonnes per annum is in progress and is expected to be completed by March, 1993. Since this is a continuous project, the grid related infrastructure would continue to develop over the years.

(d) The steps taken to check the prices of edible oils are:-

(i) Stock limits of oilseeds and edible oils are periodically reviewed to deter hoarding.

(ii) State Governments have been requested to keep strict surveillance on edible oil prices and to undertake dehorning operations.

(iii) To moderate edible oil prices, NDDB has stepped up its marketing of "Dhara" oil in retail packs.

(iv) To stretch availability of preferred oils, blending of any two edible oils has been permitted. NDDB has commenced marketing