

Construction of Roads

939. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri B. K. Das:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether top priority has been given to construction of Roads in the country due to present emergency;

(b) the roads that have been given this priority; and

(c) what is the additional amount sanctioned other than Plan allocations?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). Yes Sir. A programme for the improvement of certain arterial routes in the States of Bihar, West Bengal and Assam and some other roads in other parts of the country, to meet the present emergency has been under taken on top priority basis. These improvement works are estimated to cost about Rs. 34 crores.

Theft of Copper-Wire in Khurda Division

940. **Shri G. Mohanty:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the theft of Copper-wire in Khurda Division of South Eastern Railway has been on increase; and

(b) the places that are repeatedly affected by this mischief?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) No.

(b) The most affected areas are:—

- (1) Nirgundi-Kendrapara Road.
- (2) Byree-Kapilas Road.
- (3) Charbatia-Chagan.
- (4) Balikuda-Barang.
- (5) Jenapur—Garhmadhupur.

Targets for Food Production

941. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
Shri P. Kunhan:
Shrimati Vimla Devi:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has fixed any revised targets for food production in view of the present national emergency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to achieve these revised targets?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). No revised targets of food production have been fixed. Steps are, however, being taken to accelerate development programmes so as to secure immediate increases in the production of rice, millets and pulses.

(c) As decided by the National Development Council the Third Plan targets of coverage under minor irrigation and soil conservation are being raised by 50 per cent and that of dry farming from 22 million to 50 million acres. Distribution arrangements for the supply of fertilizers, improved seeds, pesticides and credit are being strengthened. The 'package programme' approach is being extended in a simplified way to rice, millets and pulses, and the State Governments have been requested to undertake these measures in selected promising areas.

Storage Facilities

942. { **Shri R. G. Dubey:**
Shri Vishram Prasad:
Shri Imblichbava:

Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to increase the storage facilities all over the country to arrange for

greater supplies for the co-operative stores which Government have kept in view; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to have storage facilities even at Taluk level.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) Under the centrally sponsored scheme every one of the 200 wholesale stores will be given financial assistance at the rate of about Rs. 50,000 for construction of godown.

(b) No, Sir. The centrally sponsored scheme is confined to towns and cities with a population exceeding Rs. 50,000.

मथुरा छावनी स्टेशन पर पीने का पानी

१४३. श्री दि० सि० चौधरी : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मथुरा छावनी रेलवे स्टेशन पर, जहाँ देश के लाखों यात्री आते हैं, पीने के पानी की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में क्या प्रबन्ध किया जा रहा है ?

रेलवे मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खाँ) : (क) मथुरा छावनी स्टेशन पर यात्रियों को पीने का पानी देने की पर्याप्त व्यवस्था है ।

(ख) सवाल नहीं उठता ।

Price of Rice

944. { Shri H. C. Soy:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a scheme to constitute rice zones and to fix price of rice for each such zone;

(b) if so, the basis for such fixation; and

(c) the price so fixed for the zone comprising Bihar and Orissa area?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b). Rice zones are already in existence; the question of constitution of rice zones does not, therefore, arise. There is no scheme for fixing the price of rice for each rice zone.

(c) Bihar and Orissa are not in the same rice zone.

Food Production

945. **Shri H. C. Soy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an imbalance of serious proportion adversely affecting food production has occurred due to an increasingly large scale land acquisition for mining and other industrial purposes; and

(b) if so, the steps to correct the imbalance?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). Information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as soon as received.

उत्तर प्रदेश में भूमि को खेती योग्य बनाना

१४६. श्री भक्त वरुण : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री १३ नवम्बर, १९६२ के अतारंकित प्रश्न संख्या ३३८ के उत्तर के संबंध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मैनपुरी जिले में ऊसर भूमि को खेती योग्य बनाने तथा बन्दोबस्त के बारे