

collapse of the rationing system in the State;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether the monthly allocations of foodgrains have been reaching that State month by month since March, 1967; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) The Chief Minister of Gujarat has recently asked for fulfilment of the allotted quotas of foodgrains.

(b) Priority has been given to the movement of foodgrains to Gujarat. Some supplies are also being arranged from stocks available in Central godowns to augment the despatches from the ports.

(c) and (d) There has been a shortfall of about 2.4 per cent to 7 per cent in the actual monthly supplies against the monthly quotas during the last three months. The shortfall in supplies can be attributed mainly to short arrivals.

Mechanised Farming in Assam

4476. Shri R. Barua:

Shri D. N. Patodia:

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

(a) whether the Government of Assam have drawn up a plan for mechanised farming to achieve self-sufficiency in food production;

(b) whether the Government of Assam have approached the Centre for more fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation pumps for the same project; and

(c) if so, how Government propose to help and meet the demand of the Government of Assam in this regard?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community

Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) The Central Government has not received any such plan from Assam Government.

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

Rumania's Offer to Supply Tractors

4477. Shri D. N. Patodia:

Shri R. Barua:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Rumania has offered to export to India wheel type tractors against rupee payment;

(b) whether any private firm has applied to Government for permission to import such type of Rumanian tractors;

(c) if so, Government's decision in the matter; and

(d) whether any type of tractors are being imported from Rumania at present?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

(d) Wheel type tractors are not being imported from Rumania at present. Only a crawler tractor is being imported for test and trial.

National Highway Works

4478. Shri G. Y. Krishnan:

Shri Tulsidas Dasappa:

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

(a) the number of Engineer Liaison Officers posted to several States in the past for keeping co-ordination

between the Centre and State Governments;

(b) whether they were not executing their duties properly in respect of the National Highway Works and were withdrawn from most of the States; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to post such Liaison Officers again in the interest of the efficient, orderly and quick execution of the Centrally financed projects?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Shipping (Shri Bhakt Darshan): (a) There are eleven sanctioned posts of Engineer Officers, depending on their availability, after taking into account the number of officers required at the Headquarters office at New Delhi. Thus, there were nine Liaison Officers posted in the States in 1953 and seven in 1960; but all these officers have been withdrawn to the Headquarters since 1963.

(b) They were executing their duties properly, but were withdrawn from the States to the Headquarters office in connection with the work required for the defence needs of the country.

(c) The proposal is under consideration.

Bangalore Madras National Highway

4479. Shri G. Y. Krishnan:
Shri Tulsidas Dasappa:
Shri Chengalraya Naidu:

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

(a) whether the diversion of the Bangalore-Madras National Highway planned at Kolar in Mysore State has been taken up or there is any alternative proposal;

(b) the public and expert opinions about the construction of this road;

(c) how long it will take to implement the same; and

(d) whether Government are aware that there is a very weak bridge on the said Highway near Tamballi on Palar river?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Shipping (Shri Bhakt Darshan): (a) Yes, Sir. The alignment has been approved, and there is no alternative proposal.

(b) The need for the construction of the bypass is recognized at all hands.

(c) The land acquisition proceedings are in progress. However, due to paucity of funds, the bypass is not likely to be completed during the current plan period.

(d) The bridge across the river Palar is not so weak as to require reconstruction on an urgent basis.

Package Programme in Pali District

4480. Shri S. K. Tapuria: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the package programme in Pali District;

(b) the return on this investment by way of increased agricultural products; and

(c) the reasons for which the programme has been dropped in Pali?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Anna sahib Shinde): (a) The non-loan expenditure incurred by the Government on the Package Programme in Pali District during the Third Five Year Plan period (1961-66) is estimated at approximately Rs. 106 lakhs. This was supplemented by short-term loans advanced by the cooperatives to the farmers for purchase of inputs.

(b) As a result of the implementation of the Package Programme, the production of food-grains in the district has shown an upward trend during the Third Plan period, except for the decline in 1963-64 caused by wide-spread drought. The average