

(b) All the past liabilities of the company which had accumulated till 10th June 1966, have been cleared. For the period from 10th June, 1966 upto the 31st March, 1971, the company has earned an estimated net profit of Rs 10.51 crores. The vessels of the company which were in a bad condition due to poor maintenance by the previous management are now being looked after properly.

Take-over of wholesale Foodgrains Trade consequent on rise in Price of Essential Commodities

6110. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade in wholesale foodgrains is likely to be taken over by Government in case prices of essential commodities rise further; and

(b) if not, the positive steps taken to see that the prices of these commodities, including sugar, are brought down to reasonable level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Complete takeover of wholesale trade is not contemplated at present. Considerable volume wholesale trade in major foodgrains is already being transacted through public agencies, in order to stabilise prices.

(b) The public distribution system is being strengthened to ensure supplies of foodgrains and sugar at a reasonable price to the consumer. A statement giving the details of the measures adopted, is attached,

Statement

The following steps have been taken to keep prices of foodgrains and sugar at reasonable level :-

(i) State Governments have been advised to liberalise and enlarge the distribution of foodgrains through fair price shops.

(ii) Allocation of wheat to State Governments have been liberalised to meet their requirement in full.

(iii) State Governments have been allowed to allot wheat to Roller Flour Mills to the extent of their full milling capacity.

(iv) Open market sale of wheat by Food Corporation of India has been undertaken.

Sugar

(i) Sale of sugar by factories is being regulated by monthly release orders.

(ii) Sixty percent of the monthly released quota of sugar is procured from the factories at fixed price for distribution mainly to domestic consumers through fair price shops.

(iii) Quantitative restrictions have been imposed on holding of stocks by dealers,

(iv) Inter-State movement of sugar by dealers has been banned.

(v) Bank advances to sugar dealers against free-sale sugar stocks have been restricted and bank margins thereon have been increased from 45 to 65 percent.

Financial Help To Medical Colleges in U.P.

6111. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any financial aid is being given to the various medical colleges in U.P.;

(b) if so, whether 50 percent of the recurring and 75 percent of the non-recurring expenditure was promised for Kanpur Medical College; and

(c) if so, whether this is being done and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) So far as undergraduate medical education is concerned, no financial assistance is given to States as this subject assigned to State Sector. However, Central Government have decided to give financial assistance to the Government of U.P. for a period of five years in connection with the provision of 50 MBBS seats in the State's Medical College at Meerut, for the Delhi students. During 1971-72, a sum of Rs. 4,32,500 has been sanctioned to the State