

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) The scheme of monopoly procurement is already in force in the States of Assam, Maharashtra and Orissa in respect of paddy and rice. The Governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra have decided to introduce this scheme in respect of wheat during the current rabi season. As regards cotton, the only State where the scheme of monopoly procurement is in force is Maharashtra; the Government of Maharashtra introduced this scheme during the current cotton season (September, 1972-August, 1973).

(b) All the States have agreed to take over wholesale trade in wheat and rice. As per the decision of the Government of India the wholesale trade in wheat will be taken over during the current rabi season.

Construction of Multi-Storeyed Building of the Delhi Administration at Indraprastha State

5583. SHRI RAMJI RAM;
SHRI BHAGIRATH BHANWAR:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a multi-storeyed building of the Delhi Administration is under construction at the Indraprastha Estate;

(b) whether eight stories of the same are ready for occupation; and

(c) if so, why the Administration is paying huge rent for housing its offices in private buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) Yes.

(b) No. But though not fully completed, only four floors have been partly occupied by newly created offices under the Delhi Administration, as suitable accommodation is not available elsewhere.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Progress of Palm Oil Plantation in Andaman Islands

5584. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the work on Palm Oil Plantation in Andaman Islands; and

(b) whether there has been any delay in its work, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) and (b). The detailed project and feasibility report on the Project have been drawn up and action to accord sanction to the Project is being processed. Andaman and Nicobar Island Administration has, in the meantime, placed orders for the import of oil palm seeds from Nigeria for the first year's plantation. Action has also been initiated for clearance of forest areas. Thus there has been no delay in its work.

Forest Area in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

5595. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of forest in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the total area declared as reserved forest in these islands;

(b) the total area of forest Government propose to clear for different purposes and its scheme-wise break up and details; and