

The State Government have reported that the work on the scheme had been taken up in 1973-74 and a provision of Rs. 4 lakhs has been made for 1974-75. The latest estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 94 lakhs.

Procurement of Foodgrains in West Bengal

2896 SHRI SAMAR GAHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state.

(a) whether the statutory orders relating to the procurement of paddy and other foodgrains in respect of Contai Sub-Division of West Bengal and 24 Parganas were issued by the West Bengal Government with the prior concurrence of the Central Government;

(b) what is the policy of Government of India in regard to fixation of procurement targets;

(c) the reasons for fixing procurement targets for Contai Sub-Division of W Bengal at 33,000 M.T. and 24 Parganas only 25,000 M.T. although estimated paddy productions of these two districts are not much different; and

(d) whether Central Government propose to advise the State Government to review the procurement target for Contai Sub-Division which suffered five major floods and one drought during last 8 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) (a) In West Bengal, there is compulsory procurement of only paddy and rice. Paddy is procured by means of a graded levy on producers in the whole of the State excepting the statutory rationed areas and certain parts of Darjeeling district. Rice is procured by means of 50 per cent levy on rice mills in whole of the State. The statutory orders for this purpose have been issued by the State Government after obtaining the prior concurrence of the Central Government.

(b) to (d). The State-wise procurement targets are fixed by the Government of India in consultation with the State Government after taking into account of the crop prospects and other relevant factors. It is left to the State Government to fix the district-wise procurement targets, keeping in view the local situation and it is for the State Government to review these targets, if necessary.

Estimate of Production of Oilseeds and Mustard Seeds

2897. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have made a rough estimate of the oilseeds production during the Kharif and Rabi seasons for 1974-75;

(b) whether it is a fact that the production of groundnuts and mustard seeds has shown a sharp increase;

(c) whether the Government propose to take steps to bring down the prices of edible oils in the next few months, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHU DAS PAEL) (a) and (b) Final estimates of production of Kharif and Rabi oilseeds for the year 1974-75 have not become available from various State Governments. However, according to present indications, the production of major oilseeds during the Kharif season, of which groundnut accounts for a substantial portion, is likely to register a fall as compared to the previous years level of 57.4 lakh tonnes in view of the unfavourable weather conditions particularly in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. The production of major oilseeds during the rabi season of which rapeseed and mustard contributes a substantial portion is likely to show an increase during 1974-75 as compared to the level of 29.4 lakh tonnes in 1973-74.

(c) and (d). Prices of edible oilseeds/oils have generally fallen since August-September, 1974. The fall has been particularly marked in the case of rabi oilseeds and oils. The price situation is kept under constant review and appropriate measures are taken as and when circumstances warrant.

Dropping of Scheme of Provision of Built up Houses by D.D.A. in Delhi

2898. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Development Authority have given up the present scheme of providing built up houses to different categories of people in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

World Wide system of Grain Reserve

2899. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether major grain producing nations in its recent meeting in London have considered world-wide system of grain reserves; and

(b) if so, what are the broad outlines of the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). An *ad-hoc* meeting of major grain producing, consuming and trading countries of the world was held in London on February 10 and 11, 1975, to consider a proposal for international grain reserves. The meeting was of an informal nature, seeking free exchange

of views of participants entirely without commitment on the part of their respective authorities. The matter is to be pursued further, after the results of discussions at related for a i.e. UNCTAD, GATT are known.

Rehabilitation Homes for Leprosy

2900. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of leprosy beggar rehabilitation homes in each of the States at present;

(b) whether Government are aware that the present number of homes for leprosy affected beggars are quite inadequate; and

(c) if so, the number of rehabilitation homes likely to be set up in each of the States during the Fifth Plan Period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Statement I showing the number of leprosy beggar rehabilitation homes in the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal and the Union Territory of Delhi is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-9149/75]. No separate institutional facilities for leper beggars exist in other States.

(b) and (c). The prevention and control of beggary is a State subject. Implementation of programmes in relation to the establishment of homes etc. for leprosy beggars falls within the purview of the State Governments, Statement II showing the State-wise distribution of existing institutions meant to prevent beggary is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-9149/75].