

under the Department of Environment, Forests and Wildlife. It has been ascertained that in respect of 8 firms exporting froglegs from Calcutta, the authorities issuing such certificates refused to issue them as according to them, these firms had violated certain provisions of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972. As a result of this, export consignments of froglegs from Calcutta have been held up.

(c) Detailed discussions are being held with the Department of Environment, Forests and Wildlife to see if the consignments could be cleared for export.

Availability of imported sugar in West Bengal

103. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of a feud between the Food Corporation of India and a section of the sugar trade in West Bengal, the market has almost been left dry of imported sugar supplies leading to a sharp rise in prices; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to resolve the feud and ensure adequate availability of sugar in the market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Since adequate quantity of imported sugar with the Food Corporation of India was not available due to operational difficulties, there had been some delay in the release of imported sugar at Calcutta against the tenders accepted by the Corporation during November and December, 1985. This, however, did not result in drying up of sugar supplies, as bulk of the open market demand is met from indigenous sugar which is sold by the factories against their monthly free sale quota to the licensed wholesale sugar dealers in various States. Against the sales on tender basis, Food Corporation of India had supplied 19142 tonnes of imported sugar during the months of December, 1985, January, 1986 and February, 1986 (upto

17.2.1986) and the free sale imported sugar made available to the State Government for distribution through controlled channels during the said period was 10434 tonnes. Therefore, adequate supplies of sugar in open market were maintained in West Bengal including Calcutta.

The price of S-30 grade of sugar in Calcutta in October, 1985 had ranged from Rs. 620/- to Rs. 685/- per quintal. As against this, the wholesale price range in November, 1985 was Rs. 620/- to Rs. 665/- per quintal; in December, 1985 Rs. 630/- to Rs. 660/- per quintal and in January, 1986 Rs. 610/- to Rs. 640/- per quintal. Thus, the open market prices of sugar in Calcutta were maintained at reasonable levels during the said months.

Steps have been taken to further augment the availability of imported sugar in West Bengal which include speeding up of despatches of stocks from other ports. Of the 4 ships nominated by the State Trading Corporation for discharge of imported sugar at Calcutta/Haldia, 2 ships have already completed discharge at the said ports. These steps are expected to ensure adequate supply of imported sugar at Calcutta.

Measures for Development of strong consumer movement

104. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry have initiated any time-bound measures for development of a strong consumer movement in the country by reviewing the consumer protection laws to provide better protection to the consumers; and

(b) if so the broad outlines of the proposed measures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) Important consumer protection laws such as prevention of Food Adulteration Act, Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, Essential Commodities Act, etc., have been reviewed and appropriate amendments have been proposed for better protection to consumer. The Central Government held an All India Seminar on Consumer Protection at New Delhi on 20 and 21 January, 1986 in which various administrative, legal and monitoring measures were discussed. The State Governments have been advised to enforce important consumer protection laws such as Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976, Packaged Commodity Rules, 1977, Essential Commodities Act, etc. to protect the interests of the consumers. The whole exercise is to raise the level of consciousness of the consumers about their rights.

[Translation]

**Preparation of Arthik (Financial)
Register for each village**

105. SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have advised the State Governments to start work for preparation of an Arthik (Financial) Register in respect of each village;

(b) if so, whether this work has been started; and

(c) if not, the reasons with complete details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) This Ministry has not advised the State Governments to start work for preparation of Arthik (Financial) Register in respect of each village;

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

[English]

**Charter of demands from All India
'NABARD' Employees Association**

106. SHRI R. P. DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received charter of demands from the All India National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Employees' Association in September, 1984 urging revision of pay and other service conditions for workmen/employees of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development;

(b) whether bipartite negotiation between the Management and Association has been completed;

(c) if so, the result thereof;

(d) whether Government have agreed to remove disparity and anomaly in pay scales between the officers working in National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and those working in Reserve Bank of India and other apex financial institutions like Industrial Development Bank of India, Unit Trust of India, etc; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) According to information made available by the NABARD Management the All India NABARD Employees Association served a charter of demands dated 25th September, 1984 to the NABARD Management in October, 1984 urging revision of pay and other service conditions for the workmen employees of NABARD.

(b) and (c). Two rounds of negotiations are reported to have been held with the representatives of the All India NABARD Employees Association in July and September, 1985 when the management conveyed their offer for revising the pay scales and allowances of the workmen. Before the third round of negotiation could be commenced from 6th December, 1985, the Association, it is reported, unilaterally termed the negotiations as a failure and started agitation from 9th November, 1985.

(d) and (e). The Government have received a reference from NABARD management for revision of pay scale and service conditions of its officers, which is under consideration.