

(b) and (c). The ESI authorities will be taking over the possession of the land after completing necessary formalities. Thereafter, action will be taken to get the estimates for construction of hospital prepared.

Projected Demand and Availability of Aluminium in 1988-89

4034. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is surplus in aluminium;

(b) whether the demand for aluminium in the country is increasing;

(c) if so, the projected demand and availability of aluminium for the year 1988-89; and

(d) the steps taken to create additional capacity to meet the increased demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) : (a) Not at present.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The projected demand during 1988-89 is likely to be in the range of 370,000 to 400,000 tonnes. The indigenous production is also likely to match this level of demand on account of the progressive increase in the level of production of National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO).

Supply of Poor Quality of Rice in Delhi

4035. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fair price shops in Delhi distributed poor quality of rice to the card holders during the months of January and February, 1988;

(b) if so, the reasons for the supply of such a poor quality of rice; and

(c) the measures proposed to stop the supply of such quality of rice in future ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Price Freeze for Essential Commodities

4036. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an abnormal price rise in essential commodities in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering of a price freeze for essential commodities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) In the past 11 weeks ending 27.2.1988, there has been a mixed trend in the prices of essential commodities. The prices of some essential commodities have gone up, some have gone down and others have remained more or less steady.

(b) and (c). There is presently no proposal under the consideration of the Government to freeze the prices of essential commodities. The prices of commodities depend on several factors. However, government is taking various steps to keep rise in the prices of essential commodities in check and to improve their availability.

The main thrust of the Government policy has been to increase production of various essential commodities, particularly those which are in short supply. Other measures include import of some essential commodities to augment domestic supplies, regulating export of some essential commodities, strengthening and expanding the Public Distribution System and strict enforcement of provisions of Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations against hoarders, black-marketeers by the State Government/UT Administrations.

On account of widespread drought conditions prices in general have been under pressure. To meet the situation, Chief