

पहलुओं पर कई दीर्घ-कालीन अनुसन्धान योजनाएँ चालू की हैं। इनके परिणाम उपलब्ध होने पर वे अफीम की पैदावार तथा उसकी मार्फीन अर्न्तवस्तु में सुधार लाने में पोस्त के काश्तकारों के लिए सहायक होंगे।

(vi) काश्तकारों को अपने पोस्त के खेतों में उपयोग के लिए रासायनिक उर्वरकों तथा कीटनाशक दवाओं को उपलब्ध कराने में सहायता की जाती है।

Relief to Central Government Pensioners

1715. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government Pensioners have been given dearness allowance relief at the rate of 5 per cent of their pensions;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) whether any instalment has become due in the event of rise in the cost of living; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (d). The Third Pay Commission had recommended that all future pensioners should be given a relief at the rate of 5 per cent of their pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 5 per month and a maximum of Rs. 25 per month, as and when there was a 16 point rise in the 12 monthly average of the All India Working Class Consumer Price Index (1960=100). In the light of this recommendation, Government had sanctioned 3 instalments of relief to all Central Government pensioners, including those who retired before 1.1.73, with effect from 1.8.73,

1.1.74 and 1.4.74 respectively. Thereafter, keeping in view the resources available, the Central Government pensioners have been given further relief on *ad-hoc* basis to the extent of 10 per cent of pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 10 p.m. and a maximum of Rs. 50 p.m. w.e.f. 1.10.75, to compensate the pensioners for the rise in the cost of living. A special relief at graded rates to the Central Government pensioners has already been announced in the Budget Speech. The orders in the matter will be issued shortly.

Public Distribution System

1716. SHRI M. KALAYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present public distribution system covers only some of the major urban centres; and

(b) what is the present need of foodgrains to maintain the existing net work of public distribution system?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) The public distribution system for foodgrains caters not only to the need of urban centres but also rural areas. Out of about 2.44 lakhs Fair Price Shops/Ration Shops functioning in the country, about 1.87 lakhs are functioning in the rural areas.

(b) The Demand for foodgrains, through the public distribution system, depends upon a number of factors, i.e. availability of foodgrains in the open market, their comparative price level, increase in the population etc. It is, therefore, difficult to frame any precise estimate of requirements of foodgrains for the public distribution system. However, during the year 1976, a quantity of about 9.2 million tonnes of