

(c) The rural roads programme being in the State Sector, the State Government will be requested to keep this in view while working out the details of the programme.

(d) The information is being collected from the Government of Orissa and will be placed on the Table of the House.

#### Creches

2883. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan to open more creches for children of working and ailing mothers;

(b) if so, the amount provided for the purpose during 1980-81; and

(c) the number of creches to be opened during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 100 lakhs.

(c) About 400 additional Creche Units are expected to be opened during the current financial year.

#### Silo Plant at Calcutta Port

2884. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Silo Plant fully mechanised and constructed under the Indo-American Technical Cooperation Mission used for discharging wheat has been lying idle at Calcutta Port for about four years;

(b) what is the amount spent on the construction of the plant;

(c) what are the reasons for keeping it idle; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to put the plant in operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (c). The silo plant at Calcutta has handled foodgrains totalling 3.29 lakh tonnes of wheat during the period 1976-1980. It has not been possible to utilise the plant to its full capacity because of the dwindling imports over the year 1976-77 and eventual stoppage of imports altogether thereafter.

(b) The amount spent on the construction of the silo installation at Calcutta Port is Rs. 23 lakh, excluding the cost of mechanical equipments.

(d) In the context of the present need for moving grains from the northern producing areas to Calcutta area, attempts have been made to fill up the silo for buffer stocking by movement of foodgrains by piece-meal wagons. However, due to the insistence of the railways on the movement of grains in the form of rakes only, it has not been possible to pump adequate stocks into the silo at Calcutta. Efforts are, however, being made by the Food Corporation of India to rent out this silo to some other public sector undertakings which need such facility.

#### Central Aid for Grain and Pulse Production in Flood and Drought Affected Karnataka

2885. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government have approached the Centre for financial assistance to tide over the short fall in grains and pulses production due to flood and drought in the State;

(b) if so, the quantity of short fall of foodgrains and pulses separately and the amount asked for; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?