

shahr Milk and Milk Products Control Order, 1971.

Reduction in Middle Men's Profit in Procurement of Foodgrains

1246. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken further to reduce the middle man's profits in procurement of foodgrains from different States;

(b) the gap between the procurement price and the market price of foodgrains; and

(c) the profits, if any, which middlemen and the State undertaking get?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Continuous efforts are made towards maximum utilisation of cooperatives and direct purchases from producers.

(b) Procurement prices, fixed by the Government, act as the support or floor prices below which the prices are not allowed to fall. For comparable qualities, the gap between the procurement prices and the market prices are either narrow or nil during post harvest period. The gap widens during the lean periods owing to upward trend in market prices.

(c) The State undertakings generally work on incidentals approved by Government which does not contain an element of profit. The middlemen work as commission agents of the State undertakings and paid commission for services rendered in the *mandis* in accordance with marketing regulations and practice which varies from State to State. Such commission is paid both for procurement and distribution work, wherever middlemen are engaged. It is difficult to say what profits they make out of the commission paid to them.

Sanction for Expansion of Milk Industry in Kerala during fourth Plan

1247. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sanctioned any milk industry expansion scheme to Kerala during the Fourth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if not whether Government propose to sanction atleast one milk industry expansion scheme to Kerala during the Fourth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala have included a project for the expansion of Trivandrum Milk Supply Scheme during the Fourth Five Year Plan period, at an estimated cost of Rs. 12 lakhs

The Milk Scheme at Trivandrum was commissioned in the year 1971 with a targetted capacity of 6,000 litres per day of milk. Imported equipment for the scheme was received under U.S.A.I.D. Programme. The scheme has exceeded the target and is now handling on an average about 10,000 litres of milk daily. The Government of Kerala have initiated action to expand the scheme for a daily throughput of Rs. 20,000 litres of milk. The expansion will be in the form of addition to the existing dairy buildings and installation of dairy plant and machinery.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Utilisation of Central Assistance for Drought-Affected areas of Gaya (Bihar)

1248. SHRI S. P. VERMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Narwada and some other parts of Gaya district in Bihar were declared as drought-affected areas during the year 1970-71

(b) if so, the amount of Central assistance granted for relief work ;

(c) whether the amount has been utilised for the specific works for which it was sanctioned ;

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government against those responsible for the diversion of the funds ; and

(e) whether fresh grants have been given for the fulfilment of the works originally sanctioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is presumed that the place referred to in the question is Nawada and not Narwada.

(b) Rs. 2.35 crores (Rs. 2.00 crores as loan and Rs. 0.35 crores as grant) were released to Bihar by the Government of India during 1970-71. It is for the State Government to make allocations for individual affected areas in the State.

(c) No report to the effect that funds had been utilised for purposes other than the sanctioned works had been received.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The State Government has drawn up fresh relief schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.35 crores for the State as a whole. A request has been received from the State Government for an *ad-hoc* financial assistance of Rs. 3 crores. To make an on-the spot assessment, a Central Study Team is currently visiting the State. The quantum of assistance required by the State will be decided on receipt of the Team's report.

Pilot Scheme for Dry-Farming in Areas with Scanty Rain Fall.

1249. SHRI N. S. BISHT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have started any Pilot Scheme for dry-farming in areas which have scanty rain fall and have no other means of irrigation;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any such scheme has been introduced or is proposed to be introduced in Uttarakhand region; and

(d) if so, the broad outlines of the same with financial and physical targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the Scheme which is of the nature of Pilot Projects, include soil conservation and land development; suitable tillage operations and soil management; water harvesting practices; use of sprinkler irrigation; introduction of new varieties; new crops and improved implements; animal husbandry programmes; demonstration and training of farmers in close coordination with research centres of the ICAR.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

उत्तर-प्रदेश में खनिज पदार्थों के निक्षेपों के बारे में भूगर्भ सर्वेक्षण

1250. श्री नरेन्द्र सिंह बिष्ट : क्या इस्पात और खान मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश के पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में भूगर्भ सर्वेक्षण कराने के परिष्कारमस्वरूप