

(a) Whether Food and Agriculture Nutrition Board had a meeting on the 18th May, 1971 :

(b) if so, whether this meeting of the board was held after a lapse of two years ; and

(c) if so, the decisions taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) A meeting of the Food and Nutrition Board was held on the 18th May, 1971.

(b) The earlier meeting of the Board was held on 3-7-1969.

(c) The Board reviewed the progress of the various schemes being implemented by the Food and Nutrition Board and the programme for the financial year 1971-72. Apart from continuing the existing schemes, the important decisions taken by the Board are :

To take up projects for production of edible soya flour, modernisation of pulses milling and processing of maize. It was also decided to appoint some Sub-Committees to consider the feasibility of taking up commercial projects for production of 'miltone' using protein isolate from vegetable sources, taking up a systematic dietary survey, development of cottonseed flour, commercialisation of Bal ahar ( a protein rich food) and fortification of milk, etc.

#### Scheme for Rodent control during fourth Plan

3043. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been prepared for rodent control during the Fourth Plan ;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) (a) to (c). Till the year 1969-70 there was a Centrally sponsored scheme for Rodent Control which has been transferred to the States sector with effect from 1st April, 1969. All schemes on rodent control are included as parts of the State Plan Schemes. The main feature of the rat control schemes is the use of rodenticides ; but other methods of rat control such as trapping baiting gassing of burrows are also used. The targets for coverage under rat control schemes in States are as follows :-

#### *Area in million hectares*

1971-72	8.00
1972-73	9.00
1973-74	10.00

The cost incurred on the implementation of the rat control schemes forms the part of the State Plan outlays under 'Plan Protection.'

#### Expenditure on Community Development Blocks

3044. SHRI N. S. BIST : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Development Blocks in the country alongwith their State-wise break-up ;

(b) the number of staff and average administrative and contingent expenditure on a block ; and

(c) the steps taken to cut the administrative expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) A statement giving the total number of Development Blocks State-wise is appended.

(b) The staffing pattern for a Block approved by the Ministry some time back provided for a Block Development Officer,