

(b) if so, whether Government will review this procedure, and make some changes through modernisation for General Medical Practice—Urban and Rural, and uniform throughout the country instead of this cheap Diploma for three months course; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) No.

(b) and (c). A scheme to give a short training to Vaidyas, Hakims and Homocopaths for Rural Medical aid is, however, under examination.

**Suspension of Supply of Foodgrains by F. C. I. to States for Distribution through Fair Price Shops**

1006. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether food Corporation of India have suspended supply of foodgrains to some States for distribution through the fair price shops ;

(b) if so, the names of the States and the reasons for the non-supply; and

(c) the effect on price of foodgrains in those States and whether the matter could be settled in the interest of the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) to (c). The supplies of foodgrains to Bihar were suspended by the food Corporation of India for about 4 days on account of the Corporation's heavy outstanding dues against the State Government. The matter was mutually settled and supplies were resumed immediately without any appreciable impact on the general prices of foodgrains in the State.

**Increase in Price of Foodgrains due to less Production and steps taken to bring Price down**

1007. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of foodgrains will be nearly 2 million tonnes less this year than the previous year ;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken adequate steps to ensure that the fall in production may not effect in shooting up of the price of foodgrains ; and

(c) whether the price of foodgrains have already started rising and if so, the price rise effected during the last one year, the causes thereof and the steps being taken to control and bring it down ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Firm estimate of production of foodgrains during 1971-72 is not yet available. However, according to information available so far, the total foodgrains production during 1971-72 may be marginally lower than the record level reached in the previous year because of several adverse natural factors.

(b) and (c). Foodgrains prices have been under pressure for sometime. The Index Number of Wholesale Prices of Foodgrains as on the 15th July, 1972, stood 15% higher compared to that a year ago. This is attributable to a variety of factors, such as, damage to crops by natural factors like floods and drought during 1971-72 ; the delayed monsoon followed by a dry spell, this year, resulting in uncertainty about kharif crops; increase in money supply ; increase in demand as a result of population growth; and larger stocks being held by private parties. A watch is being kept on the foodgrains price situation and the number of steps have been taken including liberal allotment of wheat to the State Governments, strengthening of the public distribution system, particularly in inaccessible areas, and augmentation of foodgrains despatches to the States.

**Running of Pan shop in Government Quarters of 'F' Block Netaji Nagar, New Delhi**

1008. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the residents of 'F' Block of Netaji Nagar, New Delhi have jointly represented against the unauthorised functioning of a Pan shop in a Government quarter in that block which has become a rendezvous of rowdies and bad characters ;

(b) if so, whether any penal action has been taken against the owner of the pan shop and the allottee of the Government quarter ; and