

Notwithstanding the difficulties, however, certain major schemes were achieved last year which brought sizeable benefit to the people. For example, under the Nutrition Programme, the number of beneficiaries during the last year was about six times the figure in 1970-71 when this scheme was first started and more than one and a half time the figure 1971-72. Another instance of a substantial programme was of Family and Child Welfare where the number of projects went up by 34 in 1972-73.

Revision of Delhi Master Plan demanded at a Seminar

7808. SHRI RAMKANWAR: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a seminar recently held in New Delhi revision of Delhi's Master Plan was unanimously demanded;

(b) whether Government of India have studied the report of the Seminar; and

(c) reaction of the Government of India thereon to various observations and suggestions made at the Seminar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) The seminar was unofficial and their recommendations are not known to the Government.

(b) and (c): Do not arise.

Big hike in prices of Industrial Raw Materials and Food Articles

7809. SHRI RAMKANWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a survey conducted by the Economic Times

and published in its issue of 25th March, 1973 saying that industrial raw materials are up by 32 per cent and food articles by 19.8 per cent over the last twelve months;

(b) whether Government have studied the implication of the survey; and

(c) reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) to (c): Government has seen the report appearing in the Economic Times dated 25th March, 1973. The rise in prices has been mainly on account of the failure of pre-monsoon showers during April-May, 1972 in the Eastern States which adversely affected the summer and early/autum crops and the erratic and scanty monsoon rains during June-September, 1972 which damaged the kharif crops in several areas. Several steps were taken by the Government to check the rise in prices. A massive Emergency Agricultural Production Programme was launched for increasing the output of the rabi and summer crops. Further steps taken include: (a) strengthening of public distribution system and channelisation of all Government stocks through fair price shops, (b) introduction of control on wholesale and retail prices of wheat products and regulation of distribution of the same through fair price shops (c) effective implementation of regulatory laws currently in force, (d) curb on consumption of foodgrains by enforcement of the Guest Control Order, (e) intensification of procurement of foodgrains, (f) import of limited quantity of foodgrains from abroad, (g) tightening of control over bank advances against foodgrains and (h) taking over of wholesale trade in wheat from the current rabi season to ensure regular supplies to consumers at reasonable prices.