

torate of Extension Education and their parent Departments.

- (iv) The role of Department of Extension Education with respect to teaching, research in extension and field extension activities.
- (v) The system of collecting, processing and communicating research findings of Extension workers and farmers, especially small farmers.

(c) (i) It was recommended that each Agricultural University/Institute/Colleges should have effective Directorate, Department of Extension Education, with information, training and advisory units for ensuring quick transfer of agricultural technology to farmers with special reference to small farmers.

(ii) In view of the special problems faced by small farmers it was recommended that suitable technology and package of practices be evolved for this category of farmers and communicated through appropriate extension methods and techniques so that these farmers can benefit from the modern agricultural technology like other farmers.

Malaria in Cachar District of Assam

3140. SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Malaria has broken out in the District of Cachar, Assam very recently;

(b) how many deaths have occurred due to Malaria; and

(c) what measures have been taken by the Government to prevent and eradicate Malaria?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): (a) and (b). Virulent form of fever with cerebral symptoms

broke out in 24 villages in Hailakandi Sub Division, Cachar District in April last. Subsequent investigations suggest the epidemic to be of Malaria. About 465 deaths have been reported since April, 1973 due to this epidemic.

(c) The State Government have taken measures regarding insecticidal spray, prompt detection of cases by establishing Field Laboratories and urgent treatment of cases by mobilizing doctors and para medical staff to control the situation. In addition, the following steps have been taken by the Government of India to eradicate Malaria from the country.

The National Malaria Eradication Programme has been made centrally Sponsored Scheme with 100 per cent Central assistance during the Fourth Plan period. Under this scheme, the operational cost over and above the committed level of expenditure is borne by the Government of India. Cost of material and equipment supplied to States is also borne by the Government of India in respect of units in the Attack and Consolidation phases. Partial assistance is also given to meet the expenditure on staff at Headquarters/Zonal level in the States.

In areas which have entered into Maintenance Phase, 100 per cent Central assistance is given for strengthening the Basic Health Services

Steps have been taken to procure, in advance, insecticides for supply in time to various States, for spray operations

The old and unserviceable vehicles in attack and consolidation phase units are being replaced by new vehicles in a phased manner during the Fourth Plan period.

Adequate quantities of insecticides and anti-malaria drugs are being supplied to States for spray operations and chemotherapeutic measures.

Alternate insecticide like BHC and Malathion are being substituted in

areas where the mosquito vector has developed resistance to DDT/BHC.

Special investigations are being undertaken in persistent transmission areas.

The Urban Malaria Scheme under the ambit of National Malaria Eradication Programme has been launched in towns where Malaria was a serious problem, with effect from 1971-72, as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme as per approved pattern. The scheme is being implemented in 28 towns during the Fourth Plan period

Programme under Fifth Plan to avoid competition for import of food from foreign countries

3141. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the analysis of the World's Food Situation in coming years made by the Washington-based research group named Overseas Development Council Forecasting that "International Competition for available food supplies could become much more intense than any previously experienced; and

(b) if so, whether Government have laid down a comprehensive programme under the Fifth Five Year Plan to make the country to extricate the country from out of this impending scramble for food; if so, the details of the programme, State-wise and item-wise?

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

(b) Keeping in view the requirement of foodgrains, only such quantities as would be necessary to maintain the public distribution system, are proposed to be imported.

Commissioning of Haldia Port

3142. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether commissioning of Haldia port has been delayed and new target date fixed as 1974; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). The oil jetty for handling oil tankers, forming part of the Haldia Project, was completed and commissioned in August, 1968. As for the Haldia Dock System, it is the first one of its type in the country and has been wholly planned, designed and is being executed by Indian Engineers and experts. They have been dealing with various technical and other problems natural to a project of the magnitude and dimensions such as those of Haldia, with all the complexities involved. Some of these were the change in the dimensions of the lock on the basis of anticipated availability of deeper draughts as assessed after detailed hydraulic studies, difficulties in lowering the waterable at the lock entrance to the dock system to enable deep excavation being carried out prior to undertaking construction, general shortage of steel and cement, low productivity of labour and unanticipated difficulties in working conditions during the monsoon period reducing considerably the availability of working time per year and delay in supply of plant and equipment by some indigenous manufactures, efforts have been made to solve the technical problems and to overcome shortages in cement steel etc. According to present indications, the Dock System is expected to be commissioned by middle of 1974. Comparatively speaking similar projects in other developed countries have taken about the same period of time for completion. The question of delay in the completion of the Haldia project has