

Conference of Chief Ministers and State Food Ministers held at New Delhi during June, 1973

108. SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN;
DR. H. P. SHARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Ministers' and State Food Ministers' Conference was held in New Delhi in June, 1973,

(b) what were the subjects discussed; and

(c) what decisions were arrived at in the Conference?

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

(b) and (c). The Conference was held to consider the price policy for Kharif Cereals for 1973-74 season in the light of the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission, review the food situation, and review the implementation of the scheme of take-over of Wholesale Trade in Wheat

The procurement prices of paddy and other kharif cereals recommended by the Agricultural prices Commission for 1973-74 season were accepted as support prices. It was also decided to fix the support price of small millets at Rs 15.00 per quintal

Starvation deaths in Tripura

109. SHRI DASARATHA DEB Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the number of starvation deaths in Tripura, particularly areas like Amarpur and other places, due to lack of food supplies from the Centre;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government by way of sending foodgrains to Tripura thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) (a) and (b). The State Government has been requested to inquire and report. The same is awaited from the State Government.

(c) 39,00 tonnes of foodgrains have been supplied to the Government of Tripura during January to June 1973. This includes 250 tonnes of foodgrains which were allowed to be airlifted and supplied to the in-accessible areas after the floods in May 1973. Besides, a quantity of 7,500 tonnes has been allotted to Tripura for July, 1973

Air pollution in Big Cities

110 SHRI VARKEY GEORGE Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air pollution in big cities is on the increase, and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA) (a) The Central Public Health Engineering Institute had carried out studies for determining the extent of air pollution in certain areas of some major cities. Some of these studies are still continuing. No conclusion has, however, been reached so far to clearly state that air pollution is on the increase in these cities.

(b) The following steps have been taken to check the Air Pollution