

backward areas. The period of loans can be raised suitably in the case of units in backward areas from 10 years in the case of units in normal areas. Similarly, the period of moratorium can be raised to 5 years as against 3 years in normal areas. The stipulation of promoters' contribution to the extent of 15-20 per cent can also be liberalised downwards, in the case of units in backward areas, depending upon the merits of each case. The debt equity ratio can also be suitably reduced in backward areas from the usual pattern of 50:50 in the normal area. The rate of interest will be 7 1/2 per cent as against 9 per cent in the normal areas. The commitment charge, which is 1/3 per cent in the normal areas, can also be waived.

- (iii) The rate of interest charged by the Agricultural Refinance Corporation on loans given in backward area, is less by 1/2 per cent and the refinance facilities are available upto 100 per cent against 75 per cent available in the normal areas.
- (iv) The concessional terms for financial assistance to industrial projects in notified backward districts by Industrial Finance Corporation of India cover a lower rate of interest, a longer initial grace period for commencement of repayment of loans, more liberal amortisation schedules, a lower margin of security, lesser contribution to project costs by promoters and reduction in the Corporation's normal charges in respect of underwriting commission, commitment charge, non-refundable examination fee for processing of applicable a.r.d legal charges.

### Cases of Epidemic Dropsy

1044. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH;  
SHRI PHOOL CHAND  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the last one month, 67 cases of epidemic dropsy due to the consumption of adulterated mustard oil had been reported in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether culprits selling these adulterated mustard oil were apprehended; and

(c) if so, the facts of it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI KONDAJJI BASAPPA): (a) Since the 21st September, 1973, 77 cases of epidemic dropsy due to consumption of adulterated mustard oil have been reported in Delhi.

(b) The persons selling adulterated mustard oil have been/are being prosecuted under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

(c) Out of 17 samples found adulterated, six samples were found to be adulterated with Argemone oil, which is responsible for the condition of dropsy. Prosecutions have already been launched in four cases.

### Stocks of Foodgrains

1045. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have enough stocks of food to meet the requirements; and

(b) if not, the extent to which the demands exceed the available stocks and how Government proposed to meet the demand?