

(c). To ensure adequate food supplies in the country and also to improve availability of foodgrains, the following steps have been taken by the Government:—

- (1) Country-wise special efforts raise the production of kharif crop by increasing the area under high-yielding variety, promotion of effective utilisation of irrigation potential and balanced use of fertilizers and timely provision of credit.
- (2) Increase in the procurement/prices of kharif cereals and increase in the support prices of wheat as incentive for increased production and procurement.
- (3) Import of limited quantity of foodgrains.
- (4) Acceptance of the loan of 2 million tonnes of wheat from the U.S.S.R. Government.
- (5) Effective implementation of regulatory laws.
- (6) Curbs on consumption of foodgrains by strict enforcement of Guest Control Orders.

Production of rice

1097. SHRI PILOO MODY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) total production of rice in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether production of rice during the current year has considerably reduced; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI
ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a)
to (c) All-India estimates of produc-

tion of rice for the last three years are given below:—

Year	Production (Million tonnes)
1970-71	42.23 (Revised)
1971-72	43.07 (Revised)
1972-73	38.63

In 1972-73, rice production received a severe set-back because of decline in area and more particularly on account of extensive damage to the standing crop resulting from erratic and scanty rainfall and the prevalence of drought conditions during the kharif season in several parts of the country.

It is too early to indicate the estimate of production of rice during the current year (1973-74). However, according to indications available so far, the rice production during the current year is likely to be substantially higher than the output last year.

Committee for Development of Hinterland of Mangalore Harbour

1098. SHRI PILOO MODY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made by the Committee for the Development of the Hinterland of the new Mangalore Harbour, which was appointed by the Mysore Government in 1971;

(b) why was no meeting of the committee called after Mr. Lobo Prabhu as Governor of the Committee on Agriculture and Irrigation submitted his report in April, 1973; and

(c) since the report was an attempt at Planning from the district level, what was the Ministry of Planning, to whom a copy was sent done, consistently with his declarations that Planning will begin from below?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMALAPATI TRIPATHI): The Government of Karnataka have reported as follows:

(a) The Committee for the development of the Hinterland of Mangalore Harbour Project was constituted by them on 15-11-1971, It has since then met on 18-2-1972, 11-1-1972 and 13-5-1973.

(b) The report of Mr. Lobo Prabhu was received in April, 1973. The meeting of the Committee was Scheduled to be held on 23-5-73 and 26-9-1973 to consider the report. Due to unavoidable circumstances, the meetings had to be postponed. The Committee proposes to meet in November, 1973 when the report of Mr. Lobo Prabhu would be considered.

(c) District Planning is an integral part of the Fifth Five Year Plan of the State. District Planning Committees have been formed in all the districts including South Kanara. The District Planning Committees are identifying the local needs and resources to evolve suitable programmes to be implemented as part of the Fifth Five Year Plan. The report on Agriculture by Mr. Lobo Prabhu is with the Deputy Commissioner of South Kanara who is also the Chairman of the District Planning Committee. To what extent the suggestion made in the report can be incorporated in the District Plan of South Kanara would be examined by the District Planning Committee.

Allocation from L.I.C. Loan for Housing Projects to States

1099. SHRI RAMSHEKHAR PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have allocated from LIC, Loan to different States for the Housing Projects to be undertaken by them during the year 1973-74;

(b) if so, the total amount given to States of Bihar and Gujarat;

(c) whether all the States have utilised the loan properly; and

(d) if so, whether any check has been made in the investment by the Centre to the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) to (d). The Ministry of Works and Housing allocate LIC loans to States for implementation of certain Social Housing Schemes out of the funds made available by the Corporation for this purpose. The LIC loan so far allocated during 1973-74 for this purpose to the Governments of Bihar and Gujarat is nil and Rs. 80 lakhs respectively.

The loans are advanced to the State Governments for implementation of the approved social housing schemes according to their discretion. No physical check is exercised by the Central Government in the matter except obtaining data from the State Governments on the utilization of LIC loans on different Schemes. According to the reports received from the State Governments, most of the State Governments have utilized the loans for the intended purpose.

Indian Council of Philosophy

1100. SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee appointed by the Union Ministry of Education has recommended very recently for the establishment of Indian Council of Philosophy, an autonomous Central Organisation for the promotion facility and research in Philosophy;