

**Policy to arrest price of Vanaspati and Ground-Nut Oil**

1680. SHRI D. P. JADEJA:  
SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that within hours of Government announcement of a substantial rise in the price of vanaspati on the ground that its chief ingredient ground-nut oil was selling at higher prices, there has been a sharp spurt in the ground-nut oil,

(b) if so, how far Government have succeeded in arresting the prices of such commodities; and

(c) what is the future policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) to (c). While the announcement of increase in the prices of vanaspati was made by the Government in the afternoon of the 1st February, 1974, the prices of groundnut oil had staged an increase even a day or two earlier. In fact, ever since the later half of December, 1973, the prices of groundnut oil have been ruling at unusually high levels due to various reasons, inspite of production being estimated to be better this year. The State Governments have already been requested to tighten their measures for dehoarding and curbing speculative activities.

**Setting up of Shipyard in the Western Zone**

1681. SHRI D. P. JADEJA:  
SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee to recommend location for setting up shipyard in the Western Zone has recommended Hajira Port in Gujarat as one of the best locations;

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government; and

(c) the outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The report of the Techno-Economic Working Group, which was set up to evaluate various sites proposed by the State Governments, including Hazira, is under consideration and no final decision has so far been taken with regard to the location of New Shipyards in the country.

**Present Food Policy including Abolition of Food Zones**

1682. SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

SHRI VEKARIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether looking to deteriorating situation of foodgrains in many States, the Union Government are considering to change the present food policy including abolition of food zones; and

(b) if so, the gist thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). There is no proposal to abolish the existing Food Zones. However, Government have recently advised the State Governments to remove restrictions on the movements of coarse grains within their respective areas and to modify the existing restrictions on inter-State movement of coarse grains to make it possible for sponsored agents of State Governments to purchase and move coarse grains from other States.

A review of the Food Policy is held periodically in consultation with the

State Governments. For this purpose, a conference of the Chief Ministers is going to be held at New Delhi during March, 1974.

#### Acquisition of India Office Library

1683. SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state at what stage the matter stands in regard to the acquisition of India Office Library at London?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): The draft agreement for arbitration received from the U.K. Government is still under examination.

#### Suicide by Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajasthan

1684. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Conservator of forests of Rajasthan had committed suicide on 1st February, 1974 following the rejection of his proposals by the Central Officials at New Delhi; and

(b) the reaction of the Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the Government of Rajasthan and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as it has been received from the State Government.

#### Reduction in Rice Quota to West Bengal

1685. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have cut the quota of rice by ten thousands tons to the West Bengal in January, 1974;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the West Bengal Government are issuing "due slip", instead of full ration; and

(c) how it will solve the food problem?

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

(a) West Bengal Government was initially allotted 10,000 tonnes rice from the Central Pool for December, 1973. On the request of the State Government, additional *ad hoc* allotment of 10,000 tonnes was made only for that month. Since January, 1974 West Bengal is being allotted 10,000 tonnes rice per month.

(b) Distribution of foodgrains through fair price/ration shops in a State is the responsibility of the State Government. West Bengal Government have reported that they are not contemplating any reduction in rice ration quantum at present.

(c) By increasing the production and intensifying internal procurement.

#### Distribution of Essential Commodities through Fair Price Shops

1686. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to launch a new experiment in the distribution of essential commodities through fair