

the Food and Agriculture organisation of the United Nations at Bangkok from 16th to 21st January, 1974.

(b). The meeting was attended by Experts from seven countries, viz., Australia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, Pakistan and Thailand.

(c). The following subjects were discussed:

- (i) Review of high priority economic and social problems of Agricultural development and Planning in the context of overall development at the national level.
- (ii) Review of economic and social aspects of agricultural development in a regional perspective; review of past efforts and progress made in regional cooperation.
- (iii) Identification of priority economic and social policy problems of agricultural development for regional study, consultation and machinery required for implementation.

Legislation for Ceiling on Urban Property

1692. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI:

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to refer to the reply given on the 6th August, 1973 to Starred Question No. 204 regarding Ceiling on Urban property and State:

(a) the names of States which have already passed legislation fixing ceiling on urban property; and

(b) the reasons for the unreasonable delay in the enactment of these legislation in different States and the steps taken by the Central Government to persuade the State to implement the decision in this regard as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) The Legislatures of the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh Rajasthan, Bihar and Punjab have passed legislations imposing ceiling on urban property.

(b) The Jammu & Kashmir Urban Property (Ceiling) Bill, 1971 became an Act on 11 October, 1971, after receiving the assent of the Governor.

As a Central legislation on the subject is under consideration, the assent of the President for the other Bills has not been accorded.

The States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala and Mysore have already taken steps to pass suitable law prohibiting alienation of urban property for a temporary period until such time as a legislation imposing a ceiling on urban property comes into force in their States. All the States have been addressed impressing upon them the advisability of passing such a legislation in their States.

Dehoarding of Foodgrains

1693: SHRI BHOLA MANJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have tried to dehoard foodgrains from the hoarders recently;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the names of the States where Government dehoarded foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). The Government of India have a constantly impressed upon the State Governments the need to enforce strictly the various food control orders. The State Governments are taking action accordingly. The State Governments have strengthened

their enforcement machinery to deal effectively with block-marketeers and hoarders. Anti-hoarding orders have been issued by several State Governments fixing maximum limits of the quantity of foodgrains that may be stored by traders, producers and consumers. In the States and Union territories where wholesale trade in wheat has been taken over maximum stock-limits have been fixed for regulating retailers business in wheat. In view of the present difficult conditions created by high prices and shortage of essential commodities and artificial bottlenecks in their distribution the Government of India have also advised the State Governments to invoke the provisions of the Defence of India Rules, 1971 for regulating various matters relating to essential commodities including foodgrains, and to use the powers under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, 1971 against persons indulging in hoarding, black-marketing and other anti-social activities prejudicial to the maintenance of essential supplies.

(c) The required up to date information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Attaching of radar reflector or cats eye as top mark on buoys

1694. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion had been submitted by an experienced shipping captain for adoption of the Suez Canal system of attaching radar reflector or cats eye as top mark on the buoys which would dispense with costly lamps imported from Europe only to be pilfered from buoys; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No such suggestion has come to the notice of the Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

Cooperation between India and Russia in the field of housing

1695. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to explore the possibilities of co-operation between India and Russia in the field of housing a major area of public interest in our country; and

(b) if so, the outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a). No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Financial assistance to fishermen of Karnataka

1696. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government are aware that a major fish famine struck the coast of Karnataka in 1972-73;

(b) if so, the financial assistance extended by Central/State Government to them and on what terms; and

(c) the policy of Government so far on the question of recovery of loans towards the mechanisation of boats?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Mackorel and Sardine fisheries were very poor during 1972-73.

(b) The position has been ascertained from Government of Karnataka. They sanctioned a sum of Rs. 25 lakhs as interest free loan at the rate of Rs. 250 per family to help fishermen tide over the famine situation arising