

(d) whether any assessment has been made as to how much less fertiliser India will obtain this year and to what extent it will reduce the food production?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) :** (a) to (c). A press release of the Food & Agriculture Organisation quoting F.A.O. officials as having said that in India an estimated shortfall of 1 million tons of fertiliser is expected to reduce grain production by some 10 million tons has come to the notice of the Government of India. This press release quotes the Director General Dr. A. H. Bocrma, as having said that current spring crop prospects in developing countries are already clouded by serious shortfalls in fertiliser.

(d) Since purchases from abroad of fertilisers for the current year, are still going on, it is not possible at this stage to assess the quantum of shortage of fertiliser or the resultant reduction in food production.

**MEETING OF NATIONAL FOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL HELD IN MARCH, 1974**

5989. **SHRI P. M. MEHTA :**

**SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state -

(a) whether meeting of the National Food Advisory Council was held on 12th March, 1974;

(b) if so, what were the subjects discussed; and

(c) the decisions arrived at?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) :** (a) to (c). In the Meeting of the National Food Advisory Council held on 12-3-74, the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission on the price policy for rabi foodgrains for 1974-75 season were considered. The Council being advisory in nature, the Members expressed their views on the

various aspects of the price and procurement policy of wheat.

**TAKE OVER OF MANAGEMENT OF AMRITSAR SUGAR MILLS BY PUNJAB GOVERNMENT**

5990 **SHRI B. S. BHAURA :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Punjab Government have taken over the management of Amritsar Sugar Mills under the DIR; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA) :** (a) and (b). The management of the vanaspati plant of Amritsar Sugar Mills Co. Ltd., Amritsar, which was lying closed since April, 1973, was taken over by the Punjab Government under the Defence of India Rules, 1971. The State Government are in touch with the Central Government in regard to the further steps to be taken.

**VICTORIA BRIDGE IN JAMNAGAR, GUJARAT**

5991. **SHRI D. P. JADEJA :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the progress in regard to construction of a bridge alongwith Victoria Bridge in Jamnagar, Gujarat; and

(b) when that bridge is likely to be completed?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :** (a) The proposed Victoria bridge in the Jamnagar District, when constructed, would fall on a local road. It, therefore, falls within the sphere of State activities. According to the information received from the State Public Works Department, work on this bridge has not yet started.

(b) Does not arise at this stage.