

(b) The Government of India has been able to contract so far 7.84 lakh tonnes of N 3.65 lakh tonnes of P and 0.46 lakh tonnes of K. In addition to this, the stocks in hand and the spillovers from past contracts are estimated at 3.36 lakh tonnes of N, 1.78 lakh tonnes of P and 2.57 lakh tonnes of K. Attempts are on, to import further quantities of nutrients to meet the deficit.

**Breakdown of Rationing System in Greater Calcutta due to strike by the Employees of Food Corporation of India**

1875. SHRI VARKEY GEORGE:  
SHRI C. M. SINHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rationing system in Greater Calcutta may break down because of the indefinite strike by the employees of the Food Corporation of India;

(b) whether, in the open market, rice prices are rising almost every day even in the surplus districts of Midnapore, Birbhum and Burdwan; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take to ease the delivery of ration to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) to (c). Distribution of foodgrains through ration shops/fair price shops in a State is the responsibility of the State Government. West Bengal Government have reported that although the rationing system in Greater Calcutta had come under considerable strain, the situation has now improved, as considerable supplies of rationed commodities have been rushed to all shops.

With the arrival of rice in the market in October, 1974 wholesale prices of rice took an easy turn which

continued till the end of November, 1974. Prices displayed a mixed trend during December, 1974, while they showed generally a hardening tendency during January, 1975. Thereafter, prices have either shown a fall or have ruled steady during February, 1975.

**Land Colonisation Scheme**

1876. SHRI DHAMANKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Land Colonisation Scheme aimed at rehabilitation of surplus rural labour in selected pockets of the country has been considered by Government for implementation;

(b) if so, important features of the scheme; and

(c) progress of its implementation so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PHABHU DAS PATEL): (a) No land colonisation scheme for rehabilitation of surplus rural labour is under consideration of Government of India. However, a scheme for Gainful Employment through Land colonisation contemplated to be implemented in the Central sector during the Fifth Plan is under consideration of Government of India. This will, to some extent, help in rehabilitation of landless agricultural labourers.

(b) The contemplated scheme envisages establishment of colonies in compact units of about 500 hectares each capable of settling about 200 economic pursuits to every person families and be able to provide employment progressively in different offering himself for work in those areas. The units are intended to be self dependent and, in the long run self-supporting.

(c) The scheme is under consideration of Government of India.