

(b) if so, measures taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The functioning of the milk depots run by the D.M.S. is inspected and supervised by 23 Field Officers who, besides routine inspection, carry out surprise checking in orders to detect malpractices. To supplement the efforts of the Inspecting staff, DMS had sought the cooperation of the token holders to ensure streamlined distribution of milk at the milk depots. 205 Depot Advisory Committees have been organised and registered by the DMS while rationalised distribution of milk has been adopted at 93% depots. This has considerably helped in eliminating malpractices like unauthorised sale of milk by the depot staff. Cross checking of milk tokens with ration cards and other authentic documents has helped to eliminate unauthorised tokens and about 31,000 unauthorised tokens have been seized and cancelled. The DMS also has a complaint cell which works round the clock and all complaints received on telephone or in writing are promptly enquired into and remedial action is taken wherever necessary. Deterrent action is taken against defaulting depot agents.

As regards complaints about adulteration of milk, DMS had received six complaints during the year ending 31st March, 1976 out of which one related to depot staff and the remaining 5 related to home-delivery agents who are not employees of the DMS. In cases where home delivery agents were involved, the DMS advised the token holders to appoint alternative agents to collect milk from the DMS milk booths.

#### **Irrigation Projects in Maharashtra**

3666. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many irrigation projects are still to be completed in Maharashtra since Third Five Year Plan; and

(b) how many other irrigation projects have been completed by 1974-75?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH): (a) 1 major irrigation project spilled over into the Third Five Year Plan from the Second Plan. During the Third Five Plan, 3 Annual Plans and the Fourth Five Year Plan periods, 13 major and 39 medium projects were taken up in the State of Maharashtra. During the same period, 2 major (including the major spilled over Scheme from II plan) and 31 medium projects were completed, leaving 11 major medium schemes as spill over schemes into the Fifth Plan.

(b) During 1974-75, 33 new medium projects were approved. During this year 2 major and 2 medium schemes were substantially completed from amongst the on-going schemes

#### **Fixation of Prices of Agricultural Products**

3667. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether while addressing the Indian Farm Education Foundation, the Prime Minister said that high prices for foodgrains have adverse effects; and

(b) if so, how far this would affect the fixing of the prices of agricultural products particularly wheat, paddy and pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b): The Prime Minister had stated that the prices of agricultural produce cannot be maintained at the high levels reached