

Consumer Cooperatives of Workers in Industrial Undertakings

53. Shri Daji: Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether any directives have been issued by Government in the matter of supplies to be made to the Consumer Cooperatives of workers in the industrial undertakings in areas where there is a statutory rationing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Food in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) and (b). The advice given to the State Governments regarding supplies to be made to all consumer co-operatives are as follows:

(i) Consumer Co-operatives should be attached to wholesale co-operative stores for the purpose of drawing supplies and not to private wholesalers. Exceptions may be made where in view of the distance involved a particular co-operative store prefers to draw its supplies from a nearer private wholesaler, and

(ii) Issue of rationed commodities to consumer co-operatives from Government stocks may be made on a consignment basis.

State Governments are, however, to exercise discretion in this matter, if there are other considerations suggesting an alternative course.

Village Volunteer Force

54. Shri Shiv Charan Mathur: Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the village volunteer force established during 1962 had its impact on the furtherance of campaign of increasing agricultural output in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to mobilise the said force for increasing food production at the present juncture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Shinde): (a) and (b). The scheme of Village Volunteer Force was launched in January 1963 with a three-fold programme of production, mass education and village defence. Labour and cash donated under the scheme were utilised mainly for implementing works resulting in increased agricultural production such as construction and renovation of minor irrigation works, laying out compost pits, soil conservation works, drainage and flood protection measures, tree plantation and construction and repairs of village roads. By the end of May 1964, the number of mandays utilised were reported as 252.56 lakhs and cash donations received as Rs. 27.25 lakhs.

(c) and (d). In the present context, the activities of the Village Volunteer Force have been oriented to meet current needs. Especially in the sphere of agricultural production, it has been suggested to the State Governments that members of the Village Volunteer Force be assigned specific tasks in regard to activities like composting, excavation and maintenance of field channels, plant protection measures, production of fruits and vegetables and poultry keeping.

National Highway between Bharatpur and Mahua

55. Shri Shiv Charan Mathur: Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large-scale repairs of National Highway No. 11 between Bharatpur and Mahua are underway for a very long time;