

**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;

(b) if so, when the work was started and the reasons for the inordinate delay in its completion; and

(c) when the work is likely to be completed?

**The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy):** (a) Yes.

(b) The work of raising, widening and improving miles 87.0 and 106.0 of Bharatpur-Jaipur section of National Highway No. 11 was sanctioned in March 1963. The work was awarded in April 1963 to Bharat Sewak Samaj and another contractor. There was, however, slow progress in the section of work entrusted to Bharat Sewak Samaj. It was, therefore, withdrawn from them and taken up for execution departmentally. The work is now progressing satisfactorily.

(c) The work is expected to be completed by June, 1966.

**Contesting of Election by Independent Candidates**

56. **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:**  
**Shri Bade:**

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commissioner made a statement in Lucknow in November-December, 1965 to the effect that candidates should not contest elections as Independents and whether similar observations are contained in the Report on the Third General Elections;

(b) whether the making of such statements and observations are not beyond his functions; and

(c) whether it indicates that Independents will not be treated fairly and impartially by the Election Commission in the forthcoming General Elections?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Law (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman):** (a) Statement attributed to the Election Commissioner is not cor-

rect. His views on this subject are contained on pages 88-89 of Volume I of the report on the Third General Elections in India 1962, which is being placed on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). The Election Commission has the right and duty to express its views on the question as on other questions relating to elections. The apprehension that Independents will not be treated fairly and impartially by the Commission in the forthcoming General Elections is unwarranted.

**Seminar on Fertilisers**

57. **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:**  
**Shri Kolla Venkalah:**  
**Shri M. N. Swamy:**  
**Shri Laxmi Das:**

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the deliberations of a three-day seminar on fertilisers held in Delhi in the later half of December, 1965; and

(b) the main points which emerged at the seminar and in what way Government propose to promote a more intensive programme of fertiliser utilisation?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Shinde):** (a) Yes

(b) The Fertiliser Association of India, Delhi which convened the National Seminar on Fertilisers in December, 1965 has forwarded to Government a brief report and recommendations of the seminar. The recommendations given in statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5433/66] are under consideration of Government.

The new strategy for agricultural production envisages the cultivation of new hybrid varieties of food grains and cash crops in selected areas. These new varieties are highly res-