

**AERIAL VISIT BY P.M. TO DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREAS**

1502. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister had made an aerial survey of some of the drought-affected areas in the country recently;

(b) if so, the names of different parts of the country visited by her and what are her findings;

(c) whether concerted efforts are being made to avert the recurrence of droughts in these areas in future; and

(d) whether any scheme based on the findings of the Prime Minister has been drawn up for Central assistance to these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). The Prime Minister did not make an aerial survey of drought affected areas of the country. She visited some parts of Allahabad district in U.P. on the 14th and 15th September, 1968, and Jaisalmer and Barmer districts in Rajasthan on the 2nd November, 1968, in order to see for herself the drought conditions prevailing there. She also took the opportunity of discussing the relief measures with the representatives of the U.P. and the Rajasthan Governments.

(c) Attention is invited to the reply to Starred Question No. 590 given in the Lok Sabha on 21-8-1968.

(d) Certain suggestions which have emerged as a result of her discussions in the course of her tour are being pursued.

**ERADICATION OF DROUGHT**

1503. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in a recent statement, the Prime Minister is reported to have stated that Government are taking steps to eradicate drought for ever in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken to attain this objective ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2239/68.*]

**INCREASE IN PRICE OF SOYABEEN OIL BY S.T.C.**

1504. SHRI MEETHALAL MEENA :  
SHRI R. K. AMIN :  
SHRI S. P. RAMAMOORTHY :  
SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :  
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :

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

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation have made any upward revision in the prices of imported Soyabean Oil during the last six months;

(b) if so, the number of times the revisions have been made and the amount thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there are complaints from various business houses that the State Trading Corporation have made huge profits on buffer stock of Soyabean Oil imported from America and other countries; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). A statement showing the prices of soyabean oil fixed from time to time since April, 1968 for supply to vanaspati factories in the different zones is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2240/68.*]

(c) Except on May 27th, when a uniform average price was fixed in all the zones, the prices were fixed in relation to the prevailing price of groundnut oil in the different zones. However, the prices fixed on 9th August have not been increased despite the further increases in the price of groundnut oil which have occurred after the date.

(d) No such complaint has come to Government's notice.

(e) Does not arise.

#### STRIKE BY NEWSPAPER EMPLOYEES

1505. SHRI HIMATSINGKA :

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :

SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the disputes between the employees and the employers of the newspapers have since been resolved with the intervention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and

(b) if so, the terms on which the settlement was reached between them ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI) :

(a) and (b). As explained in reply to Starred Question No. 95 on the 14th November, 1968, the disputes have been referred to a National Tribunal for adjudication. Copies of Government Orders on the subject were laid on the Table of the Sabha on the 14th November, 1968.

#### AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES DURING FOURTH PLAN

1506. SHRI MANGALATHUMADAM : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Agricultural Colleges to be started in the country during the Fourth Plan; and

(b) the number of colleges to be started in Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No new colleges are intended to be established with the Central support during the Fourth Plan period. However the State Governments of Gujarat and Madras have informed that there are proposals for opening one new agricultural college each in these States during the ensuing Fourth Plan.

(b) There is no proposal to start any more Agricultural Colleges in Kerala.

#### बिहार में भूमिगत जल संसाधन

1507. श्री क० मि० मधुकर : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने बिहार में भूमिगत जल संसाधनों का कोई सर्वेक्षण किया है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसका व्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(घ) बिहार के भूमिगत जल संसाधनों से उस राज्य में कितने एकड़ भूमि की सिंचाई होने का अनुमान है; और

(ङ) अन्य राज्यों की तुलना में बिहार में भूमिगत जल का अनुपात क्या है ?

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अन्नसाहिब शिन्दे) : (क) जी हाँ।

(ख) केन्द्रीय सरकार के कृषि विभाग के अधीनस्थ समन्वेषी नलकूप संगठन ने भूमिगत जल गवेषण की परियोजना के अन्तर्गत बिहार में 24 गवेषणात्मक बोरों का छिद्रण किया है। जिनका परिणाम निम्न प्रकार से है : —

जिला	छिद्रण किये गये बोरों की संख्या	सफल बोरों की संख्या
1. शाहबाद	7	3
2. भागलपुर	4	2
3. गया	6	2
4. चम्पारन	1	—
5. मुजफ्फरपुर	6	5
	24	12