

PANCHAYATI RAJ IN N.E.F.A.

1635. SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHANDA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce Panchayati Raj in North East Frontier Agency; and

(b) if so, what is the time schedule ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CO-OPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMI) : (a) Yes.

(b) Tentative time schedule is as follows :—

- (i) N.E.F.A. Panchayati Raj (Constitution) Draft Rules 1968 published on the October 9, 1968 inviting objections/suggestions;
- (ii) Finalisation of the aforementioned Rules by November 30, 1968;
- (iii) De-limitation, declaration of Constituencies, publication, and finalisation of electoral rolls by January 31, 1969;
- (iv) Completion of election of Anchal Samities by stages from February 1 to April 30, 1969;
- (v) Holding of first meeting of Anchal Samities after issuing notice, by May 31, 1969;
- (vi) Election of Members of Zila Parishads and nominating their members by June 30, 1969;
- (vii) Holding of first meeting of Zila Parishads by July 31, 1969;
- (viii) Holding election of Agency Council by August 31, 1969; and
- (ix) Inauguration of Agency Council on October 2, 1969.

AMENDMENT OF FAMINE CODE

1636. SHRI D. N. PATODIA :  
SHRI R. K. AMIN :  
SHRI Y. A. PRASAD :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that while visiting the drought-affected areas of Rajasthan, the Minister is reported as per Hindustan Times dated the 16th October, 1968, to have stated that he would look into the matter of amending the Famine Code as it existed in different States;

(b) whether any step has since been taken in this direction; and

(c) whether non declaration of famine in a particular State area creates any difference in Central Government's assistance to that State or area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). The press report referred to in this question does not mention that Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture had stated that he would look into the matter of amending the Famine Codes as it existed in different States. The Minister had stated that Government would look into the matter if in any particular case it was brought to their notice that a change was required in the Famine Codes. Government have already placed on the Table of the Sabha on 9-8-1966 and 7-4-1967 two notes bringing out the salient differences between the old codes and the codes as revised by the State Governments after independence.

(c) No, Sir.

INSTALLATION OF TUBEWELLS IN JALORE (RAJASTHAN)

1637. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme for installing 200 tubewells in Jalore in Rajasthan with Central assistance was formulated some years ago;

(b) if so, when the scheme was sanctioned by the Centre;

(c) what progress has been made so far to implement the scheme; and

(d) whether the State Government have specified reasons for not implementing the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes,

(b) On technical examination, it was considered necessary to conduct a detailed

groundwater assessment study of the region before according approved to the Scheme;

(c) The Exploratory Tubewells Organisation has undertaken a Project of Groundwater Survey in Rajasthan with technical and financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (Special Fund). The Jalore area has been included in the Project for groundwater assessment studies. The results of the investigation in the Jalore area are expected to be available by the end of 1969; and

(d) Does not arise.

#### RETAIL PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

1638. SHRI J. N. HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have studied the incidentals and margin added by the various State Governments over the issue prices of Central Government while fixing the retail prices of foodgrains; and

(b) if so, whether the difference observed between the retail prices of State Governments and the issue prices of Central Government is justified having regard to the actual cost of incidental operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) The responsibility of determining the incidentals and margins between the Central Government issue prices and the retail prices of foodgrains for the consumers is within the jurisdiction of the State Governments. However, with a view to ensuring fair prices for the consumers, the Central Government in consultation with the Agricultural Prices Commission have suggested certain norms to be adopted by the State Governments while fixing their own issue prices.

(b) Whenever the incidentals and margins in case of any particular state seem excessive, the matter is taken up with the concerned State Government for corrective action in the light of the norms laid down by the Central Government applied in the context of local conditions.

#### SPECIAL POSTAGE RATES FOR TIME MAGAZINE

1639. SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE :  
SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in contravention of present postal regulations, the Asia edition of the US Magazine "Time", printed in Tokyo, has been permitted advantage of special postage rates and registration numbers in Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay;

(b) if so, the reason therefor and whether similar foreign journals with a vogue in India would also not be following suit; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the consequential loss to our postal revenue and also to the foreign exchange earned by the country through the accredited Indian agents of "Time" and the other foreign journals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### PADDY CULTIVATION IN MANIPUR

1640. SHRI M. MEGHA CHANDRA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total acreage of land in Manipur under direct paddy cultivation during 1968 and the detailed areas of the said land;

(b) the total amount invested in the said work of cultivation; and

(c) the proposed amount of yield from the land ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (c). Final estimates of area and production of rice in Manipur during 1968-69 are due to become available only by the end of February 1969.

(b) Information regarding amount invested in paddy cultivation is not available.