

(d) whether in view of confident position of food stock at the hands of the Government and prospects of better food production this year the policy regarding control of food be reviewed by the Government and the whole country be treated as a single food zone and as a preliminary measure to remove control over food distribution, wheat will be decontrolled; and if so, when, and if not, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHIB SHINDE) : (a) The dry crops of bajra, maize, barley and gram have registered a decline in their production during 1968-69. The total production of all foodgrains has also been slightly less than what it was in 1967-68. Still, the position can be called bright.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2232/69.*]

(c) At the beginning of November, 1969, about 4.2 million tonnes of foodgrains were in the Central and State Governments godowns, of which about 3 million tonnes can be considered as buffer stock.

The Government's policy is to maximise procurement mainly through the Food Corporation of India using the cooperative organisation and the direct government agency also wherever necessary.

A statement showing the procurement prices of various grains for 1969-70 season is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2232/69.*]

(d) Government's approach in this regard has always been pragmatic. The restrictions and controls on foodgrains are constantly reviewed and relaxations are made as and when the food situation warrants.

Requirement of Tractors and their Manufacture

2737. SHRIMATI SUDHA V. REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the average requirement of Tractors in the country during the next five years

and the steps taken to meet the requirement;

(b) the number of tractors proposed to be manufactured and intended to be imported during this period and the disparity of the price between an indigenous tractor and a foreign tractor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to start and enlarge the public sector enterprise for production of tractors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) The requirement for tractors has been assessed at 90,000 nos. for the last year of the IVth Five-Year Plan *i.e.* 1973-74. With a view to meeting this requirement, it has been proposed to step up the production of tractors. In this connection the following measures have been taken by the Government of India:

- (i) As tractors are included in the list of priority industries the Government have been able to meet the full requirements of tractor manufacturers for import of components and raw materials in accordance with their phased manufacturing programme.
- (ii) All the tractor manufacturers have been assisted by grant of import licences for additional capital goods required for achieving their licensed capacity.
- (iii) The agricultural wheeled tractor industry has been exempted from the licensing provisions of the Industries (D&R) Act, 1951 with effect from the 7th February, 1968, in order to induce the present tractor manufacturers to diversify their production in the lower HP range and also to induce other intending parties to come into the field to produce cheap tractors. Seven new schemes for manufacture of tractors have been approved in principle and 6 more schemes are under consideration.

(iv) It is proposed to manufacture small HP tractors (20 HP) in one of the existing public sector projects in the country for a capacity of 12,000 nos. per annum.

(b) A target of production of 30,000 tractors by the end of 1971-72 has been laid down. The programme for the import of tractors is decided on year to year basis taking into consideration the demand of that year, indigenous production and the availability of foreign exchange. In view of this, the number of tractors proposed to be imported during the next five years cannot be indicated at this stage. However, it has been decided to import 35,000 tractors for 1969-70.

The question of removing disparity in the prices between the indigenous and imported tractors is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d). It is proposed to manufacture small HP tractors (20 HP) in one of the existing public sector projects in the country for a capacity of 12,000 nos. per annum.

P. & T. Employees in Mysore State

2738. SHRIMATI SUDHA V. REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees working in the Posts and Telegraphs Department in Mysore State;

(b) the number of employees out of them to whom residential accommodation has been provided;

(c) whether any allowance is paid by Government to the employees to whom residential accommodation has not been provided, the nature of the allowance and the amount thereof;

(d) the number of Posts and Telegraphs employees, at Bangalore and the number of employees out of them to whom Government have provided residential accommodation; and

(e) the arrangements proposed to be made by Government to provide residential accommodation to the remaining employees and the time by which such arrangements are likely to be made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) 17,010 (Gazetted & Non Gazetted).

(b) 1,050.

(c) House Rent Allowance is being paid to P & T employees serving in classified cities only. For this purpose the cities have been classified as "A", "B-1", "B-2" and "C" according to population figures as revealed in 1961 census and different rates of HRA have been prescribed according to the classification of the station concerned. As Bangalore is an only "B-1" Class city, H. R. A. is being paid at the following rates:

Pay below Rs. 100—Rs. 15/- P. M.

Pay between Rs. 100 is 15% of pay subject to Rs. 3,000/- a minimum of Rs. 20/- and maximum of Rs. 300/-.

There are about 13 "C" Class stations in Mysore State. In "C" class cities, H. R. A. is being paid at 7 1/2% of pay up to a pay limit of Rs. 620/- subject to a minimum of Rs. 7.50 and a marginal adjustment of amount by which pay falls short of Rs. 665/-. No special allowance has been sanctioned to P & T staff posted in Mysore State to whom no Government accommodation has been sanctioned.

(d) 5,268;

105.

(e) Arrangements proposed to be made to provide residential accommodation are as under:

Bangalore City : Quarters under construction for officers and staff . . . 60.

At other places :

(i) Sites purchased and plans/estimates under preparation and sanctions for construction of quarters is to be issued :

1. Mercara 4 quarters in addition to 12 existing.
2. Mangalore 37 quarters in addition to 6 existing.
3. Gulbarga 24 quarters.
4. Tumkur sanction to be issued.