

SHRI VISWANATHA MENON :**Food Production**

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

(a) the facilities provided to the coal workers by the Coal Mines Welfare Board ;

(b) whether the same facilities are given to them as are enjoyed by the workers under the Employees State Insurance Scheme ;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to give all the facilities as are given under E.S.I. Scheme ; if so, when ; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) Extensive medical facilities for colliery workers and their families are provided, free of cost, by the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund. These include, provision and maintenance of hospitals, maternity and child-welfare centres, facilities for treatment of T. B. including domiciliary treatment, dispensary service including Ayurvedic dispensaries and other facilities. The Fund has also reserved beds for patients suffering from T. B., Cancer and Leprosy in other hospitals and Sanatoria. Besides its own Township Schemes, the Fund provides subsidy under its various Housing Schemes for construction of houses. For relieving the chronic water supply problems in the coal-fields, the Fund provides financial assistance to colliery managements and Water Supply Boards so that drinking water becomes fully available. The Fund also provides various educational and recreational facilities for the colliery workers. The activities of the Fund are given in the Annual Report of the Ministry presented to the Parliament before Budget discussions every year.

(b) to (d). The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 applies at present to factories and provides for certain benefits to employees in cases of sickness, maternity and employment injury. The workers in coal mines get some what similar benefits in such cases under other Acts or through the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund. As recommended by the Employees State Insurance Scheme Review Committee, it is proposed to take up the question of extension of the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 to colliery workers after all factory workers have been covered by the Scheme.

678. SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an estimate has been made of the possible production in the current year ; and

(b) whether this estimate has been lower than the expected growth of food production this year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No firm estimates of likely production of foodgrains during the current year (1969-70) are available. The All-India Final Estimates of Foodgrain Crops, 1969-70, would become available only after the close of the current agricultural year, i.e. in July-August, 1970.

(b) The Question does not arise.

Development of Fisheries in Mysore during Fourth Five Year Plan

679. SHRI S. A. AGADI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount earmarked for the development of fisheries in Mysore State during Fourth Five Year Plan ;

(b) the details of the development, District-wise proposed to be taken in Mysore State ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Fisheries College started in Mangalore in Mysore State has not admitted the candidates of professional fishermen ; and

(d) the number of boys admitted in Mangalore Fisheries College and the number of boys of hereditary fishermen community ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) A sum of Rs. 55 lakhs has been approved for development of fisheries in Mysore State during the Fourth Five Year Plan.

(b) The Plan has been approved by the

Government of India with reference to schemes; formulation of programmes, district-wise, is made by the State Government.

(c) and (d). This information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Chief Ministers' Conference of Food Policies

680. SHRI RAM KISHAN GUPTA :
SHRI HUKAM CHAND
KACHWAI :
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :
SHRI S. M. KRISHNA :
SHRI DEORAO PATIL :
SHRI A. SHEEDHARAN :
SHRI HIMATSINGKA :

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

(a) the nature of decisions taken and recommendations made in the recent Chief Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi on the 27th September, 1969 regarding future Food policies; and

(b) whether the present foodgrain and sugar policies are to be continued in the coming year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) A statement showing the recommendations of the Chief Ministers Conference held on 27.9.69 is attached.

(b) Generally the policies in force in 1968-69 season are being continued in 1969-1970 season.

Statement

- The targets for procurement recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission were generally acceptable. However, marginal adjustments will have to be made to allow for shortfall in production in view of change in the course of monsoon after the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission were made.
- The existing procurement prices should be maintained with marginal adjustments.

- The State Governments of Bihar, Kerala, Mysore and West Bengal were in favour of continuing the payment of delivery bonus. The suggestion to eliminate incentive bonus on rice payable to the exporting States was not acceptable to the supplying States.
- The recommendation of the Agricultural Prices Commission for resorting to direct purchases from producers and elimination of intermediaries was acceptable in principle. However, the State Governments would be free to choose the system of purchases best suited to meet the needs of intensifying procurement in their States.
- The recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission for deferring part of the price to be paid to the farmers was not accepted.
- The existing policy of partial de-control for sugar would continue for 1969-70.

Applications from M. Ps. for Telephone Connections at their usual places of Residence

681. SHRI K. HALDER :
DR. RANEN SEN :
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI J. M. BISWAS :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received from Members of Parliament in Delhi for telephone connections at their usual places of residence ;

(b) the number of applications received in August, 1969 for a half telephone connection in Calcutta ;

(c) whether it is a fact that even after a period of a month and a telephone connections were not given in some cases ;

(d) whether it is a fact that complaints were made to the General Manager Telephones Calcutta that he did not acknowledge letters from Members of Parliament ; and

(e) whether complaints were received by