

sub-section (3) of section 44  
of the Architects Act, 1972.

- (ii) A statement (Hindi and English version) showing reasons for delay in laying the above Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4259/73.]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Indian Museum (Amendment) Rules, 1972 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 1477 in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 1972, under sub-section (3) of section 15A of the Indian Museum Act, 1910.

- (ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the above Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4260/73.]

- (3) A copy of the Victoria Memorial Hall (General Provident Fund) (Amendment) Rules, 1972 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 1601 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 1972, issued under section 5 of the Victoria Memorial Act, 1903. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4261/73.]

12.27 hrs.

#### STATEMENT RE. TAKE-OVER OF WHOLESALE TRADE IN WHEAT

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED): Sir, I beg to lay a statement regarding the take-over of whole-sale trade in wheat by Government on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

The Hon'ble Members will recall that towards the end of last year, Government had, in consultation with the State Chief Ministers, taken the decision to take over the wholesale trade in wheat and rice from 1973-74 rabi and kharif seasons respectively. On the 24th February, 1973, a Conference of the Chief Ministers and Food Ministers was held to discuss and finalise the steps for the take-over of wholesale trade in wheat from the Rabi 1973-74.

2. I am happy to announce that this Conference unanimously approved of the steps and agreed to implement this decision. The following basic objectives underlying the take-over of wholesale trade were fully endorsed:—

- (i) Effective public control over the marketed surplus so as to eliminate speculation and the distortions in price and availability resulting from it;
- (ii) Remunerative prices to growers so as to provide them with incentive to expand production and market it to the public agencies;
- (iii) Assured availability to consumers, particularly to the vulnerable sections of the population, at reasonable prices; and
- (iv) Economy in the costs of wholesale trading by elimination of unnecessary intermediaries and by other improvements in the efficiency of the system.

3. Since the take-over of wholesale trade by Government is introducing a major structural reform in the marketing of wheat, keeping in view the basic objectives, it has been decided that the system should operate by and large on the marketed surplus

[Shri F. A. Ahmed].

as distinct from the marketable surplus.

4. The salient features of the final scheme, as emerged after discussion in the Chief Ministers' Conference, are as follows:—

(1) Imposition of ban on private wholesale dealers in wheat all over the country.

(2) Institution of single State Wheat Zones; cordoning, in addition, of wheat surplus zones in the producing States as well as cordoning of major consuming centres and heavily deficit zones; inter-State movement of wheat and wheat products to be allowed only by the FCI and/or other public agencies in accordance with the orders of the Central Government.

(3) Retailers should be permitted to operate under appropriate conditions to be specified in the licence. Definition of a retailer should be functional, depending on the situation in each State, laying down the area of operation, specifying the maximum quantity they could deal in and stock, and the retail points they could cover. Such licensed retailers and the consumers will be permitted to buy directly from the growers.

(4) Purchases for the Government will be undertaken by the FCI, the State Co-operative Marketing Federations and the State Departments of Food and Civil Supplies and any other public agencies designated by the State Governments. The procured stocks will be taken into the Central Pool and release will be made to the States to meet their reasonable requirements.

(5) The consumer cooperatives in the urban areas and the marketing and service cooperatives in the rural areas should be utilised for retail distribution to the maximum extent.

(6) The procurement and issue prices for wheat to be issued from the Central Pool will be uniform throughout the country. In the context of expanded operations, the procurement and issue prices should be fixed in each a manner that the subsidy burden is kept within reasonable limits.

(7) Roller flour mills will be allowed to do only custom milling.

5. It has been agreed to take necessary preparatory steps to take-over wholesale trade in wheat from 1973-74 Rabi season. The detailed financial, administrative and other operational arrangements are being worked out in consultation with the State Governments. It has also been decided, in particular, to gear up the procurement machinery to ensure that, consistent with the objectives of take-over the public agencies are in a position to purchase almost the entire marketed surplus so as to meet the additional distribution responsibility that would devolve on Government.

6. We have taken this major decision in the national interest for the transformation of the economy involving the interests of millions of growers and consumers. I appeal to the Hon'ble Members, irrespective of the political parties to which they may belong, to extend their whole-hearted support and co-operation to make it a success.