

aircraft and if we need, we will go in for further purchase of the aircraft because our credit rating in the international market is one of the best anywhere in the world.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Commercial Fishing of Krill Fish in Antarctica

*131. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any study for the commercial fishing of krill fish in Antarctica; and

(b) which are the other nations that are engaged in the krill fishing in this area ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : (a) As a part of Antarctic research programme, scientific investigations on the locations of living organisms including krill are carried out in Antarctica by Department of Ocean Development.

(b) Nations engaged in krill fishing in Antarctica are Chile, France, German Democratic Republic, Japan, Republic of Korea, Poland and the USSR.

Import of Milk Products

*132. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an acute shortage of milk in cities and rural areas due to starvation deaths of cattle owing to drought;

(b) if so, whether in view of above, Government propose to import milk-powder and butter-oil to meet the demand; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : (a) There has been fall in the availability of milk and milk products during the last few months due to wide-spread drought conditions. However, there are indications that the situation is improving now.

(b) and (c) In order to ease the situation, some quantities of skim milk powder and butter oil are being imported as under :

(i) EEC has agreed to supply 12,000 MT of skim milk powder and 4,000 MT of butter oil under Food Aid Programme 1987 for Operation Flood.

(ii) Commercial import of some quantity of skim milk powder and butter oil has been arranged.

Central Funds to Bihar for Slum Clearance

*133. SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) how much Central funds have been allocated to Bihar State for clearing the slum areas; and

(b) how many district towns have been chosen for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) and (b) The present policy of the Government lays emphasis on environmental improvement of urban slums in situ rather than their massive clearance or relocation. The Scheme of Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums (EIUS) is in the State sector and appropriate projects are formulated and implemented by the State Governments, in accordance with their needs and priorities, out of their State Plan provisions. There is a provision of Rs. 5 crores for slum improvement in the Seventh Five Year Plan of Bihar State.

'Agro Climatic Zones'

*135. SHRI S. M. GURADDI :
SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be Pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government propose to divide the country into different agro-climatic zones for proper and efficient crop planning;

(b) if so, the modalities of the scheme; and