

**Free Mid-Day Meal Programme by
D.M.C.**

*379. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR
SINGH;
SHRI HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION,
SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government
are financing the programme of free
mid-day meals supplied to poor and
underfed by Delhi Municipal Corpora-
tion;

(b) if so, the amount given during
1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75;

(c) the result thereof; and

(d) whether the Union Government
are financing such assistance to other
States and Union Territories of the
country and if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI
ARVIND NETTAM): (a) and (b).
From the grants sanctioned by the
Delhi Administration, the Delhi
Municipal Corporation had allocated
Rs. 6.00 lakhs, Rs. 5.00 lakhs and
Rs. 11.50 lakhs respectively in 1972-73,
1973-74 and 1974-75 for the supply
of free milk etc. to School children.

(c) The provision utilised in
1972-73 and 1973-74 was Rs. 6:00 lakhs
and Rs. 3.34 lakhs respectively. Cases
for 1974-75 are still under process of
the Corporation.

(d) Provision for similar pro-
grammes is made in the Plan budgets
by most of the State Governments.
As for the other Centrally adminis-
tered areas, like Chandigarh, Anda-
man and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and
Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Goa,
adequate provision for such schemes
is approved by the Central Govern-
ment in their budgets.

**Invitation from Pakistan Cricket
Control Board**

*380. SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA:
Will the Minister of EDUCATION,
SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan Cricket Con-
trol Board has invited the Indian
Cricket team to tour Pakistan during
1975-76;

(b) if so, whether any official in-
vitation has since been received by
the Government of India; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI
ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c). The
Board of Control for Cricket in India
has received an invitation from the
Pakistan Cricket Control Board, for
the visit of an Indian Cricket team
to Pakistan during 1975-76. The pro-
posal is being discussed between the
two Boards.

**Subsidiary Company for Cultivation
of Oil Palm in Kerala**

*381. SHRI R. BALAKRISHNA
PILLAI:
SHRI VARKEY GEORGE:

Will the Minister of AGRICUL-
TURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased
to state:

(a) whether the Government of Ke-
rala has proposed the formation of
subsidiary company under the Plan-
tation Corporation of Kerala Limited
for cultivation of Oil Palm with the
equity participation of the Central
Government;

(b) if so, the proportion of the
equity capital to be contributed by
the Central Government;

(c) whether Central Government
have received any request for release
of loan assistance amounting to

Rs. 100.86 lakhs for the year 1974-75 to 1976-77; and

(d) whether any decision has been taken by Government on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): (a) Yes sir.

(b) 48 per cent.

(c) Yes sir.

(d) Not yet.

Effect of Power Shortage on Farm Operation and Supply of Diesel to Farmers

*382. **SHRI D. D. DESAI:**

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR:

Will the Minister of **AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION** be pleased to state:

(a) whether farm operations have been affected in the country owing to power shortage;

(b) if so, whether farmers had made any complaints to this effect recently; and

(c) if so, whether any steps have been taken by his Ministry to supply adequate supply of diesel to assist where farm operations were threatened by shortage of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Timely availability of irrigation and other farm operations have been affected to some extent in some parts of the country owing to power shortage.

(b) Complaints of farmers from some areas in a few States were

received about the power shortage affecting irrigation of crops.

(c) Yes, Sir. Apart from insisting on the States to provide electric power for irrigation pumping on a priority basis by imposing restrictions on the use of power consumption in the non-agricultural sector, number of steps were also taken to improve the supply of diesel oil for irrigation pumping and other farm operations. These include:

(i) making realistic assessment of the requirement of diesel oil and issuing on this basis diesel allocation cards to the consumers in the agriculture sector so that supplies to such consumers could be ensured on priority,

(ii) taking measures for economising in the consumption of high speed diesel oil in transport sector.

(iii) imposing a ban on the use of diesel oil for power generation for festive purposes under the essential commodities act.

Fish Production

*383. **SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR:** Will the Minister of **AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made to increase fish output in the country;

(b) whether during the next year more districts are proposed to be included in the Fish Farmers' Development Schemes; and

(c) if so, the State-wise and district-wise breakup of the proposals under Fish Farmer's Development Agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): (a) In order to increase fish output, several Developmental Schemes have been taken up.