

(b) whether as a result thereof Government has decided to out down import of wheat if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b). There has been no change in the decision to import the authorised quantity, the actual purchases are, however, being arranged after taking into account the ruling international prices, availability, etc., so as to derive the maximum advantage to the country.

Foodgrains Allotted to States and Foodgrains Shops in each State

***215. SHRI B. N. REDDY:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains allotted to each State in the country during the last two years; and

(b) how many foodgrain shops are opened to supply foodgrain to the people in each State and the price fixed per kilo of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). Statements (I & II) showing the quantity of foodgrains allotted to each State during the last two years and the number of fair price/ration shops functioning in the country are placed on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5801/73].

The prices at which rice is being issued through the fair price/ration shops are fixed by the State Governments and vary from State to State, even from place to place within the State. The reports received from State Governments/Union Territories indicate the range of price between Rs. 1.07 to Rs. 2.07 per kilo depending upon the quality of grain.

Lack of Trained Pharmacists

***216. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is woeful lack of trained Pharmacists in the country,

(b) whether in view of this, Government propose to open more centres for Pharmacist training; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) According to estimates made by the Pharmacy Council of India, there is a shortage of trained Pharmacists.

(b) and (c). Training of Pharmacists is linked with the training of para-medical personnel in general, responsibility for which rests with the State Governments. Block Grants for this purpose are being given to the State Governments. The State Governments are making provision in their Plans to introduce a number of diversified courses including Pharmacy in polytechnic.

Dilapidated Conditions of National Highway No. 34 between Calcutta and Siliguri

***218. SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the dilapidated and worn-out condition of long stretches of N. H. 34 between Calcutta and Siliguri, which is the principal road link between Assam and North Bengal with the port of Calcutta;

(b) whether any survey has been made of the increase of bulk goods traffic borne by heavy trucks and also of passenger traffic through this National Highway after the commission of the bridge over Ganga at Farakka and

other river bridges in the last half decade between 1967 and 1972-73 as compared to earlier periods; and

(c) the steps taken to widen and strengthen the road capacity of the National Highway in view of its economic and strategic importance.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLA-PATI TRIPATHI): (a) to (c). National Highway No. 34 starts from Calcutta and ends at Dhalkola (445 Kms) where it meets N. H. 31 going to Siliguri. The total distance from Calcutta to Siliguri is 575 Kms. Some damages to this National Highway in a length of about 50 Kms due to heavy rains during the last monsoon have been reported. Emergent temporary restoration works are taken up by the State P.W.D. as and when required.

Estimates amounting to Rs. 827 lakhs have been sanctioned during the IVth plan period for widening, strengthening of payment and improvement of N. H. 34 and works are in progress. The question of any requirement for pavement strengthening for some of the stretches affected by last monsoon is under examination. N. H. 31 is already a two lane facility.

Traffic census on both the National Highways has been taken. On Dhalkola-Siliguri, N. H. 31 number of vehicles per day before commissioning the bridge over Ganga at Faraka was 450-650 and now it is about 1000. On N. H. 34 near Paiganj number of vehicles per day before commissioning the bridge was 450-750 and now it is 1000 and near Jaguli number of vehicles per day before commissioning the bridge was 450-750 and now it is 1500. Works for widening, strengthening of pavement and improvement of N. H. 34 have already been taken up to cater to the growing traffic.

मध्य प्रदेश में भूमिगत जल विभाग का कार्यकरण

* 219. श्री गंगाधरज दंडित : क्या कृषि मन्त्री यह बताने को कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भूमिगत जल विभाग केन्द्रीय स्तर पर मध्य प्रदेश में भी कार्य कर रहा है और क्या इस विभाग ने उन स्थानों का रस्ता लगाया है जहां पानी उपलब्ध है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो ये स्थान विशेषकर होशंगाबाद और पूर्व निमाड़ जिले (मध्य प्रदेश) में कहाँ कहाँ पर है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (प्रो० शेर सिंह(क)जी हां। केन्द्रीय भूमिगत जल-मण्डल मध्य प्रदेश में भूमिगत जल के सर्वेक्षण तथा समन्वयन के लिये क्रमबद्ध रूप से कार्य कर रहा है।

(ख) इस सर्वेक्षण के फलस्वरूप नर्मदा के क्षेत्र के होशंगाबाद, नरसिंहपुर, जबलपुर, रायसेन तथा निमाड़ जिलों में, चम्बल क्षेत्र के भिन्ड मोरेला तथा ग्वाघिर जिलों में और महानदी क्षेत्र के रायपुर तथा दुर्ग जिलों के जलोढ़ क्षेत्रों में पानी की उपलब्धि का पता चला है।

होशंगाबाद जिले में नर्मदा क्षेत्र के जलोढ़ भागों के निम्नलिखित क्षेत्रों में पानी की उपलब्धि का पता चला है:—

1. पदचल क्षेत्र (110 वर्ग कि० मी०)
2. पावरखेदा-एरीन्वई क्षेत्र (650 वर्ग कि० मी०)
3. समरखेडा-गदावरा क्षेत्र