

Memorandum Regarding Food Trade Problems

*11. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a memorandum from the Federation of All India Foodgrains Dealers Association regarding the problems relating to food-trade in April last; and

(b) if so, reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The main suggestions of the Federation were (i) that Zonal restrictions on movement of wheat and rice may be removed; (ii) that support price of barley and gram may be fixed at Rs. 70 and Rs. 90 per quintal respectively and of jowar, bajra and maize at Rs. 85 per quintal; and (iii) that instructions may be issued to State Governments asking them to review and withdraw cases registered against traders for minor technical offences under the Essential Commodities Act, DIR, MISA etc., particularly during the Emergency.

Government have already decided to remove Zonal restrictions on movement of wheat. The support prices of barley and gram have been fixed at Rs. 65 and Rs. 95 per quintal respectively. Zones have already been enlarged. Any further modification in this regard and the question of support prices for jowar, bajra and maize and other kharif cereals would be considered at the time of deciding kharif policy in September-October, 1977.

As regards the Federation suggestion for review and withdrawal of cases registered for food offences, it may be stated that the Government have considered the position in respect of action taken under Maintenance of Internal Security Act and Defence and Internal Security of India Regulations in the

light of the revocation of the "Emergency". Instructions have been issued to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to consider the release of all persons detained under Maintenance of Internal Security Act, except whose interests of security of the country are clearly involved or where persons have been detained on account of their recent indulgence in violent activities. In so far as economic offences under DISIR are concerned, the State Governments have been advised to pursue the matter in respect of persons standing trial in Courts or in respect of persons whose cases are under investigation. No instructions have been issued to the State Governments in regard to cases registered under the Foodgrain Dealers Licensing Orders or the Essential Commodities Act as it is essentially for the State Governments to consider each case on its merits and decide whether such cases should be proceeded with or not.

Disparity in the Irrigation Rates

*12. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists a wide disparity in the irrigation rates being charged by the States in the country for important crops;

(b) if so, the details of Inter-State range of variation for important crops;

(c) whether water rates charged in Northern region of the country are significantly lower than those in Central, Western and Southern parts of the country; and

(d) if so, what steps are proposed to rationalise the irrigation rate in favour of small farmers to check emergence of water lords?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The details are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-294/77]. Irrigation is a State subject and water rates for irrigation supplies are fixed by the State Governments. Water rates at present fixed by the States are not adequate to meet the total working expenses and interest charges. The question of increasing and rationalising the water rates has been considered at a number of conferences and meetings. The State Governments have generally responded to the need though the increase in water rates has not been as much as recommended in these conferences. There is no proposal to rationalise water rates according to size of holdings.

Allotment of Plot on Janpath, New Delhi

*13. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry leased a plot on Janpath for the New Era of Progress Exhibition in December, 1976—January, 1977;

(b) if so, whether the lease was on a nominal rent; and

(c) if so, whether the rent and other dues were paid?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) to (c). The Ministry of Works and Housing informed the Delhi Development Authority that it had no objection to the temporary allotment of land measuring about 3,412 sq. yards at Windsor Place, New Delhi to the Indian Crafts Society for holding an exhibi-

tion—New Era of Progress on nominal licence fee of Re. 1 per month for the period from October 20, 1975 to January 15, 1976 provided the entire sale proceeds from the exhibition were donated to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The period was further extended upto 30th April, 1976 or till the exhibition was over, whichever would be earlier. The Indian Crafts Society was required to deposit the licence fee in advance and was also required to furnish a bank guarantee for the amount equivalent to the approved damages at the rate of Rs. 5 per sq. yd. per month. Besides this, the Society had to furnish an audited statement of the proceeds from the exhibition and a certificate to the effect that the entire proceeds from the exhibition had been made over to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund within one month of the closure of the exhibition. The Society has neither paid the licence fee for the use of the land nor furnished the bank guarantee. The Society has also not furnished the audited statement of the proceeds from the exhibition or the certificate to the effect that the entire proceeds from the exhibition had been made over to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

Implementation of Delhi Education Act, 1973

*14. SHRI LALJI BHAI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Education Act, 1973 has been implemented in practice;

(b) if so, whether all the aided school teachers are getting medical facilities according to Section 10 of the above act;

(c) whether they are getting travelling allowance and leave travel concession also; and

(d) whether the teachers who retired after 2nd September 1972 and who opted for the new system are getting pension, gratuity and G.P.F. etc., at par with the employees of