

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) About 1.35 million tonnes of foodgrains have arrived during the period January—June 1973.

(b) to (d). Only such quantities of foodgrains including wheat as are necessary to maintain the public distribution system would be imported from the countries where stocks are available, at best possible terms. The foodgrains are likely to be imported from Canada, U.S.A. and Argentina. The value of imports would depend upon the level of prices at which purchases would be made.

Exploitation of Double Market and Price System in Wheat

***16. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'double market and price-system' introduced by the Government after the take over of the wholesale trade in wheat is being exploited to the detriment of the poor consumers; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to remove the hardships caused to the poorer section of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). Under the scheme of take-over of whole sale trade in wheat, apart from the public distribution system, licensed retailers are allowed to function subject to reasonable restrictions on stocks which they can store or deal in. Continuation of this is essential to ensure supply of grain to those who do not either want or are not able to draw supplies from the public distribution system or need to supplement the same. However, in order to prevent hardship to consumers, licensed retailers are required to abide by maximum retail prices

which have been announced in most of the States and which are generally in line with the issue price applicable to public distribution system.

Confirmation of Work-charged Staff of Arunachal Pradesh Circles of C.P.W.D.

***17 SHRI BHOLA MANJHI:** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether 100 permanent posts were created for the work-charged staff of Arunachal Pradesh Circles of C.P.W.D.;

(b) if so, whether the seniority lists for all categories of work-charged staff have been prepared and circulated, and

(c) whether all the eligible workers have been confirmed against these 100 permanent posts and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHOLA PASWAN SHASTRI): (a) A total of 100 permanent posts for both industrial and non-industrial categories were created on the 4th May, 1968

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) 37 workers have so far been confirmed. The remaining 63 workers could not be confirmed so far as certain formalities such as verification of character and antecedents and medical examination had not been completed. Efforts are being made to complete these formalities and confirm them as soon as possible.

Famine condition in Rajasthan and Central Relief therefor

***18 DR H P SHARMA:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the study by Shri

Sudhir Dar in the 'Sunday World' of the *Hindustan Times* dated the 17th June, 1973, captioned 'Face to Face with Famine' depicting the grim famine conditions in Rajasthan and the water scarcity problem in the different areas of the State; and

(b) if so, the Central relief provided to the State to tackle the situation and the famine-relief measures so far taken in Rajasthan this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI ANNASAHEB P SHINDE)

(a) Yes Sir

(b) The position of central assistance provided to Rajasthan Government is as under —

An amount of Rs 21 crores has been released to the State Government for drought relief measures. In addition a sum of Rs 389 crores and Rs 4 crores has been released for special minor irrigation works and agricultural inputs respectively

2 Special ceilings of expenditure of Rs 228 crores and Rs 113 crores have been adopted towards drinking water supply arrangements and cattle conservation and fodder arrangements respectively

3 During January to May, 1973, 240 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been supplied to Rajasthan Government. Food allocations to the State were stepped up considerably from May 1973 when 71,700 tonnes were supplied. A quantity of 90,000 tonnes and 70,000 tonnes has been allotted to Rajasthan Government during June and July 1973 respectively

4 The State Government has taken several relief measures such as opening of test relief works to give employment to the affected people, distribution of gratuitous relief, arrangements for drinking

water supply, arrangements for fodder supply etc. Number of persons employed on relief works has increased from 0.75 lakh in December 1972 to 12.85 lakhs in June 1973.

Revision of Sugarcane Price

*19 SHRI BAKSI NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government of India has fixed minimum prices for sugarcane,

(b) if so, the reasons for the upward revision of the sugarcane prices; and

(c) whether it would affect sugar prices in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(PROF SHER SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir. The basic minimum price for sugarcane for 1973-74 has been fixed at the same level as for 1972-73

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Take-over of wholesale Trade in Rice from Kharif Season

*20 SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA
SHRI S C SAMANTA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether the State take-over of the wholesale trade in rice will start from the kharif harvest, and

(b) if so, the agency assigned for take-over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI ANNASAHEB P SHINDE). (a) and (b) There is no change in the decision regarding take-over of wholesale trade in paddy and rice