

(b) whether employees and officers with 62 years age are still working in KRIBHCO; and

(c) if so, the details of the relevant rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, three persons have been engaged as Consultants who are beyond the age of 58, but they are not ex-employees of KRIBHCO.

Short supply of edible oils

1108. **SHRI SURESH KALMADI** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a wide gap between demand and indigenous availability of edible oils in the country; and

(b) if so, the measures Government have taken to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHAND-BHAI SHAH) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) In Oil Year 1989-90, 6.07 lakh tonnes of edible oil of the value of Rs 328.32 crores has been imported. Permission for use of 20 per cent expeller mustard/rapeseed oil in the manufacture of vanaspati has been withdrawn w.e.f. 6-7-90 so as to increase the availability of these oils during the festival season. The stock limits of edible oils with wholesalers and retailers have been reduced w.e.f. 26-4-90. The stock limits of oilseeds with wholesalers and retailers have

been reduced w.e.f. 2-7-90. The stock limits of edible oils and vanaspati with producers of edible oils and vanaspati has been halved w.e.f. 2-7-90. State Governments have been requested to take de-hoarding operations to enforce reduced stock limits. To improve availability of edible oils, blending of one conventional edible oil with one refined non-conventional oil (like soy-been, cottonseed, safflower) has been permitted under the Prevention of food Adulteration Act by a notification issued on 23-4-90. Steps for increasing production covering improved seeds, pest control, better agricultural practices and market intervention operations have been continued under the Technology Mission on Oilseeds. The Oilseeds Production Programme is being implemented during the current year with an outlay of Rs 70 crores.

Visit of World Bank Team to flood affected areas of Orissa

1109. **SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA**, Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a World Bank Team have recently visited the flood-affected area of Ganjam district in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether any decision to provide financial assistance for the flood victims has been taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHAND-BHAI SHAH) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) The World Bank Team felt that the most appropriate way in which the Bank could respond to the situation is to consider inclusion of the repair of major bridges and Irrigation works in the proposed "Sub-ernarekha Irrigation Project". The State Government could also consider preparing and proposing for Bank support, a Project to upgrade the

rural infrastructure of the selected coastal district. The Government of Orissa have been informed of this position and requested to take further necessary action in this matter.

Implementation of recommendations of Bhanu Pratap Singh Committee regarding F.C.I.

1110 SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to make the Food Corporation of India an efficient and economically viable organisation;

(b) whether Government have examined the Bhanu Pratap Singh Committee Report on the Food Corporation of India;

(c) what steps are being taken to remove high spending by the officials;

(d) what are the details of economy measures being initiated; and

(e) whether outside experts would be asked to examine and suggest ways to streamline the Food Corporation of India's operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SARWAR HUSSAIN) (a), (c) and (d) The Food Corporation of India is the main agency of the government for protecting the interests of the farmers on the one hand and the consumers on the other hand. The FCI purchases/ issues foodgrains at the prices fixed by the Government. The Central issue prices of foodgrains do not cover all the handling costs of FCI. The difference between the economic costs and the Central issue prices is reimbursed to FCI in the form of subsidy as a

deliberate welfare policy of the Government. The handling costs of FCI are composed of costs of controllable and non-controllable items. Costs on non-controllable items constitute the major portion of the handling costs. FCI, however, have prepared a Cost Reduction Plan on items which are controllable with a view to reducing its operational costs and as a result the Corporation achieved savings of Rs 667.65 crores during period from 1986-87 to 1989-90.

(b) The recommendations of the Bhanu Pratap Singh Committee on Agricultural Policies and Programmes are under examination in the Ministry of Agriculture.

(e) The Bureau of Industrial Cost and Prices (BICP) had recently undertaken a cost audit of FCI's operations and submitted a report. It has found that economic cost of foodgrains handled by the FCI was lower than the open market prices in almost all the States.

Market value of Hotels owned by ITDC

1111 SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the estimates of market value of all the hotels owned by ITDC, and

(b) the net profit from each ITDC owned hotel, the figures separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SMT USHA SINGH) (a) The market value of ITDC owned hotels has not been estimated.

(b) The hotel wise profitability for 1989-90 is given in Statement attached.