

(b) if so, what is the likely loss to Government by way of interest on the pending cash and who will be responsible in case of loss of cash by the depot staff;

(c) whether it is a fact that the depot staff is not expected to carry cash at home; and

(d) whether in view of loss in revenue by way of interest and non-security of cash, Government propose to revert to the original system of collection of cash daily and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (d) Delhi Milk Scheme is marketing its milk from its depots on 'Cash & Carry' basis since 1966. The sale proceeds are collected by cash clerks from each depot every day and deposited in the Delhi Milk Scheme. Since the present system of cash collection on day to day basis was considered uneconomical the Management Committee of the Delhi Milk Scheme in its meeting held on 2nd August, 1980, took a decision that the existing marketing system of milk may be replaced by the concessionaries under which the milk be sold to the concessionaries in bulk and the cost of milk will be collected by the drivers by means of crossed cheques.

Pending a complete switchover from the existing marketing arrangements to the concessionaire system and to effect some economy in the expenditure being incurred on cash collection, as a first step, the system of cash collection on alternate days has been introduced on experimental basis on 30 routes with effect from 27-2-1982. The average collection per day on alternative days works out only Rs. 90,000 (approx.) at the current milk price from these 30 routes.

Against the nominal interest loss of less than Rs. 10,000 per annum, DMS would be saving Rs. 1.25 lakhs (approx.) on account of the salary and

other allowances of 15 cash clerks due to the introduction of the revised system.

The depot agents and the cash clerks are insured for the sums which they are handling and thus there is no apprehension of loss of Government cash. The depot agents can carry cash to their homes. Even before the introduction of this system, at times the depot agents were required to carry cash to their homes on sun-days and holidays

Import of edible, oils

2292. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of edible oils imported during 1981-82 and the quantity proposed in 1982-83;

(b) the quantity of such oil supplied to vegetable oil factories for manufacture of vanaspati in 1981-82 and proposed to be supplied in 1982-83;

(c) the ex-godown cost of these imported oils in India and the issue price at which these oils are supplied to vegetable oil factories;

(d) whether Government have laid down any stipulation about the vanaspati manufacturers charging extra amount from dealers for supply of oil and dealers in turn charging extra unbilled amount from consumers, if so the detail thereof; and

(e) whether Government have taken steps to ensure supply of vanaspati to consumers at controlled price?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF): (a) 10.7 lakh tonnes of edible oils were imported during 1981-82. The order of import for 1982-83 depends on a variety of factors like prices and availability of oils in the domestic as well as the international markets, the prospect for the oilseed crop, the demand for oil etc.

(b) Above 6 lakh tonnes were supplied to the vanaspati industry during 1981-82. Supply of imported edible oils to individual vanaspati manufacturing units is based on their performance during the previous oil year. 60 per cent of oil required for attaining the monthly average production levels of the previous oil year are supplied to the individual units. They are expected to procure the remaining quantity from the domestic market.

(c) There are wide and frequent fluctuations in the prices of edible oils in the international market. The incidental costs also fluctuate a great deal. However, the imported oil is being issued to the vanaspati industry at a uniform price of Rs. 8,500/- per metric tonne.

(d) and (e) In consequence of their discussions with the Government the vanaspati manufacturers announced a voluntary price restraint by pegging the ex-factory price of a 16.5 kg. tin of vanaspati at a maximum of Rs. 217/- (inclusive of excise duty). The price discipline is by and large being observed.

Social Forestry Programmes

2293. SHRI BHAGATRAM MAN-HAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the individual beneficiary oriented schemes of forestry sectors under I. R. D., N. R. E. F., D. P. A. P. and D. D. P. for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes having sub-marginal lands where agriculture is not economical;

(b) what are the existing guidelines for identifying families under IRD Programmes for the development of blocks fully covered by tribal sub-plan or Scheduled Caste Component Plan;

(c) whether it is possible to take up individual beneficiary programmes of plantations of fuel, fodder and fruit, trees for Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

i (d) if not, what are the reasons thereof and for the delay in extending credit facility to individual beneficiaries adopting social forestry programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE AILM SERIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) The Integrated Rural Development Programme is primarily an individual beneficiary-oriented programme and all bankable schemes in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors which can raise the income levels of the identified families are eligible for assistance under this programme. In the forestry sector, entire cost of planting material can be provided out of the IRD funds for taking up schemes of farm forestry. The Drought Prone Areas Programme and the Desert Development Programme are primarily area development schemes. However, schemes like pasture, fodder and fuel development on private lands, planting of trees on the farm bunds and development of fuel and timber species on private lands can be taken up under these programmes. Among others, the Schedule¹ Castes and Scheduled Tribes families are eligible for assistance under these schemes. The National Rural Employment Programme Provides for forestry schemes on lands belonging to Government and local bodies like Panchayats. It also provides for road-side plantations, plantations on canal banks, waste lands by the side of railway lines, denuded forest areas and other land unfit for cultivation.

(b) Under the existing guidelines, the identification of families for providing assistance under the IRD Programme is based primarily of the income of the family. All rural families with an annual income up to Rs. 3500 are eligible for assistance under the programme. According to the guide lines, 'the poorest among the poor' are to be accorded priority in selection