

(b) if so, the extent to which the prices of edible oils rose during the last 6 months and what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government to check the rising prices of edible oils and to make it available to the consumer at reasonable prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJ MOHAN MOHANTY):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The wholesale price indices of major edible oils, except Coconut oil had shown an upward trend during the period from January, 1981 to July, 1981. The rise in the edible oil prices may be mainly attributed to fall in the production of oilseeds in the oil-year 1979-80. The shortfall in production encouraged speculative forces to operate, contributing to the bullish tendencies of oil prices.

(c) The Government have taken several longterm as well as short-term steps to stabilise the prices of edible oils in the country. Some of the important measures taken are:—

1. Encouraging production of oilseeds and planned efforts to exploit non-traditional sources so as to reduce the gap between demand and supply of oils;

2. continuing imports of adequate quantity of edible oils;

3. release of more imported oils for public distribution system;

4. price-restraints on a voluntary basis by the vanaspati industry;

5. maintenance of steady production of vanaspati;

6. encouragement of greater production of cottonseed oil;

7. request to State Governments to enforce Storage Control Orders and other enactments;

8. free movement of oilseeds and oils between various part of the county; and

9. curb on illegal trading in oilseeds and oils by Forward Markets Commission through periodic raids.

### Shortage of Vanaspati

267. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been acute shortage of vanaspati in the country during the months of June and July, 1981;

(b) whether imported edible oils allocated to the vanaspati industry and the public distribution system are being siphoned off to the open market at fancy prices;

(c) if so, what are the findings of the enquiry, if any, held in the matter; and

(d) what measures have been taken to make available vanaspati to the consumers at fair price?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJ MOHAN MOHANTY):

(a) No, Sir. On the other hand, the production of vanaspati during June and July, 1981 was 15.4% higher than the corresponding period of 1980. In case of any sporadic reports about shortage of vanaspati, Vanaspati Manufacturers Association were asked to rush supplies to the concerned areas.

(b) and (c) No specific complaints have been received in this regard which could be enquired into. As regards imported oils given to vanaspati industry, their production is being monitored through returns and inspections by field officers. The State governments have been addressed to exercise constant vigilance that the oils supplied for public distribution by State Trading Corporation of India reaches the consumers for whom they are meant at the pre-determined prices.

(d) Government is continuing dialogue with the vanaspati manufac-

turers regarding the availability of vanaspati in sufficient quantities and at the price announced by the industry, and would continue to take such appropriate steps as the situation demands from time to time. The State Governments have also been requested to keep a watch on the situation and to take effective measures to maintain vanaspati availability and prices, in coordination with vanaspati industry and trade.

**Grants to various State Governments for Rural Housing for Agricultural Workers**

268. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY;  
SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE;

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

(a) whether any grant has been given to various State Governments for rural housing for agricultural workers; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the amount out of the grants utilised by various State Governments during the last three years Statewise details?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Purchase of Furniture and Linen by Central Government Hostel, Nizam Place, Calcutta**

269. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN;  
SHRI SUDHAKAR PANDEY;

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

(a) the funds provided for purchase of furniture and linen by Central Government Hostel, Nizam Place, Calcutta during the last three years, 1978-79, 1979-80 and 1980-81; and

(b) what are the details of purchases made by the hostel out of the funds provided during these years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Master Plan on Rivers of North Bengal**

270. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN;  
SHRI SUDHAKAR PANDEY;

Will the Ministry of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have received master plan on any of the rivers of North Bengal from the West Bengal Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) No Master Plan for irrigation on any of the rivers of North Bengal has been received from the Government of West Bengal. However, preliminary Master Plans for flood control for rivers Teesta, Torsa, Jaldhaka and Raidak were sent by the West Bengal Government to Central Water Commission. Since these were not based on detailed surveys and investigations, Central Water Commission had requested the State Government to revise the Master Plans. The State Government have informed that it has not been possible to carry surveys and investigations as the Government of Bhutan did not give permission for surveys in their territory.

रावी तथा ब्यास नदियों के पानी के बंटवारे के संबंध में बातचीत

271. श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :  
श्री धर्म चन्द जैन :

क्या सिंचाई मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रावी तथा ब्यास नदियों के पानी के बंटवारे के बारे में पंजाब तथा