

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b) The token system has been dispensed with except for supply of double toned milk. A limit of six bottles at a time for each individual has been fixed.

(c) to (e) Bulk supply of 196 bottles and 164 bottles from Milk Depot Nos. 647 and 554 respectively is made through authorised home delivery agents for supply to consumers. No instance of sale of milk in black market has come to notice. Periodical as well as surprise checking is being done regularly by the officers of Delhi Milk Scheme to ensure proper distribution of milk.

Decline in consumption of fertilizers

2435., SHRI HARVENDAR SINGH HANSPAL; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the recent upward revision of prices the consumption of fertilizers has considerably come down;

(b) if so, what necessary measures are being taken to see that small or marginal farmers get their requirements of fertiliser at subsidised rates; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a negative rate of consumption reported from many States especially from Punjab as a result of high prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN) : (a) to (c) It is too early to gauge the impact of rise in fertiliser prices on fertiliser consumption, it is expected that the overall fertiliser demand during the year would not be adversely affected as the Government has decided to fully compensate

; state the farmer through suitable increase in support/procurement prices of crops.

Allotment of Government accommodation to house owning officials

2486. SHRI SHRIDHAR WASU-DEO DHABE; Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to refer to the reply of Untarred Question 1325 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd December, 1980 and to state the steps that are being taken to allot Government accommodation to the house owning officers in accordance with their original priority dates?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): The matter is under consideration.

Smuggling of Jute from Bangladesh

2487. SHRI B. D. KHOBRADE; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of jute in open market have crashed down to Rs. 60 per quintal which are below the statutory minimum price;

(b) whether the crash in price is due to increase in availability of jute in the market because of smuggling of jute from Bangladesh; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by the Government of India to stop smuggling of jute from Bangladesh and to provide remuneration price to jute growers in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The prices of raw jute in open market have not crashed down to Rs. 60 per quintal.