

(b) Government have taken a number of steps to meet the shortage of pulses and edible oils in the country. Efforts are being made to increase the production of pulses by bringing additional area under cultivation of short duration varieties of urad and moong under multiple/mixed cropping. Import of pulses has been allowed on Open General Licence basis. Minimum support prices for major pulses have been fixed to encourage their production by the cultivators. In the case of oilseeds, efforts are being made to raise their productivity by increasing the irrigated area under oilseed crops in the commands of irrigation projects, increasing the area under short duration varieties; stepping up coverage under plant protection measures, augmenting the supply of certified seeds, and subsidy on cost of certified seeds and plant protection measures etc. Import of edible oils has been allowed and the imported edible oils are being supplied to the State Governments for distribution through licensed fair price shops. R.B.D. palm oil and palmolein have been introduced for public distribution since July, 1979 in addition to rapeseed oil which was introduced in early 1977. With a view to conserving the availability of indigenous edible oils for direct consumption, Vanaspati industry has been permitted to use the imported edible oils to the extent of 95 per cent in the manufacture of vanaspati. Besides this, the STC has been making commercial sale of imported edible oils in certain selected markets of the country to ease the supply position.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The *ad hoc* scheme entitled "Development of early races of Brassica campestris varietia for growing on *aus* and *aman* fallows in West Bengal," submitted by Dr. R. M. Datta of Calcutta University, part of which is to be located at Buruipur Experimental Farm of Calcutta University, was approved by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and sanction for this scheme was issued on 20-7-1979. After completion of necessary formalities by the

University, the first instalment of funds to the extent of Rs. 12,200 for the second half of the financial year ending 31-3-1980 has been released.

Contract labour system in the Food Corporation of India

*137. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the number of places where contract labour system exists in the depots of the Food Corporation of India;

(b) what is the number of depots where contract labour workers of the Food Corporation of India indulged in acts of violence and resorted to strikes during the last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to put an end to the contract labour system by the FCI; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH):

(a) In 2046 Food Storage Depots.

(b) As the workers employed by the contractors for handling operations at the Food Corporation of India's depots are not in the Corporation's employment, exact information regarding the number of depots where such workers indulged in acts of violence and resorted to strikes during the past 3 years is not available. According to information readily available with the Food Corporation contract labour at eleven Depots resorted to either of the said forms for agitation in support of their demand for abolition of contract labour system.

(c) There is no proposal before Government to end the contract labour system, but labour cooperatives are being encouraged by the FCI to take contracts by granting certain concessions to them.

(d) Does not arise.

Ban on cow slaughter

*138. **PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given an assurance to Shri Vinoba Bhave to the effect that the slaughter of cows would be banned all over the country and that the Constitution would be amended for this purpose; and

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken or propose to take to implement the said assurance?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) The then Prime Minister made a statement in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 26th April, 1979 offering to bring forward before Parliament, an appropriate Bill to amend the Constitution with a view suitably to providing an entry regarding preservation, protection and improvement of stock in the Concurrent List and subsequently, introducing the necessary legislation in this behalf.

(b) Government introduced the Constitution (50th Amendment) Bill, 1979, with the objective of securing legislative competence for Parliament to legislate on the subject of prohibition of slaughter of cows, calves and other milch and draught cattle through a new entry in the Concurrent List to which the existing entry in the State List would be subject. The above Bill has, however, lapsed with the dissolution of the Sixth Lok Sabha.

Prof. Raj Krishna's statement regarding reasons for rise in Sugar prices

*139. **SHRI N. K. P. SALVE:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of Prof. Raj Krishna attributing phenomenal rise in sugar prices to the former Government's disagree-

ment with the Planning Commission over the policy of decontrol of sugar management; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and how the sugar policy is being modified?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by Prof. Raj Krishna as reported in the Press on 28-2-1980.

(b) The statement in question attributes the rise in prices of sugar to the failure of the policy of decontrol. Since the policy of decontrol has already ceased to be in force from 17-12-1979, the question of taking any action on the statement with reference to modifying the earlier policy does not arise.

Beautification of Delhi

@*140. **SHRI ROSHAN LAL:**
SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that large sums of money have been spent by the NDMC on the plea of beautification of the city during the last two years; and

(b) if so, what was the amount spent on decorative lighting, fountains etc. during that period?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Certain development and improvement projects, which in common parlance are known as beautification programmes, were undertaken by the New Delhi Municipal Committee out of its non-Plan funds.

(b) Expenditure incurred on these projects is Rs. 6,37,800.00 and Rs. 9,17,200.00 for the years 1978-79 and 1979-80, respectively.

@Previously Starred Question 60, transferred from the 13th March, 1980.