

wagons. The movement by road tankers has been resorted to the maximum extent possible.

(ii) Haldia-Barauni Pipeline is also being put to the fullest possible use in order to carry imported diesel and kerosene to the affected areas.

(iii) The rabi growing States have been asked to give the top most priority to the needs of agriculture during March in order to ensure that rabi crop does not suffer.

(iv) Repeated instructions have been given to the State Governments to ensure that hoarding and black-marketing of diesel and kerosene are put down with a heavy hand by making use of the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act.

By taking all these measures Government are trying to ensure that supplies of HSD to the State Governments as a whole are 9 per cent above the level of consumption during March, 1979. Similarly, the allocations of kerosene have been made at a level of 10 per cent higher than that achieved in March, 1979.

Caprolactam manufacturing project

•135. SHRI S. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be please^ to state:

(a) whether caprolactam manufacturing project submitted by th_e Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. has been under Government's consideration for a long time; and

(b) if so, what ar_e the details thereof and what is Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA) PATIL): (a) and (b) A proposal for setting up a caprolactam plant a_s a diversification of Fertilizer_s and Chemicals Travancor_e Ltd. was received in late 1977. Before

the proposal had been fully examined, a revised proposal for 50,000 tonnes per annum caprolactam plant was received from them in August 1978. M/s. Gujarat State Fertilizer Company Ltd. had also applied, i_n 1975, for expansion of their existing plant by 20,000 tonnes per annum. While the comparative merit_s of the two proposals were under consideration of the Government, a suggestion emerged that an 80,000 tonnes per annum grass root plant should be set up to achieve economy of scale. A *techno-economic* evaluation of e_ach of these proposals has been undertaken and a final view will be possible only on th_e completion of thi_s exercise.

Shortfall in production and require-mejnt of pulses and edible oils

•136. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are th_e details of shortfall in production and requirements of pulses, oil seeds and edible oils during the current year;

(b) what steps Government are taking to meet th_e shortage if any, of these items;

(c) whether the experimental farm project of Buruipur unde_r the Calcutta University which was to start functioning during the second half of the last year for production of special type of oilseeds has been shelved by the ICAR; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) As the current year's production data of pulses and oilseeds which are grown both in the kharif and rabi seasons, have not yet become available from the States, it is not possible t_o indicate the extent of shortfall in production as compared to requirements of these crops.

(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 var. toria 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

•187. 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 contractor 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.