

(d) ii so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):

(a) and (b) The Master Plan of Delhi provides that the upper ridge should gradually be developed as a central public park in Delhi. This would then be comparable to Hyde Park in London, Bois-de-Boulogne in Paris or Central Park in New York. The Plan further provides that for the present, small portions of the ridge be developed, like the Buddha Memorial Park, and the rest might remain in a natural state with the under growth cleared to facilitate hiking. The southern ridge is also to be developed as a regional park.

(c) No, Sir. The ridge, being an important open area available for development of a Regional Park, is not proposed to be utilized for housing purposes.

(d) Question does not arise.

Pay scales of laboratory staff

67. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI; Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pay scales prescribed for the laboratory staff by the UGC have not been adopted in many professional and other colleges affiliated to the Delhi University;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take to bring the pay scales of such laboratory staff at par with those prescribed by the University Grants Commission?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) According to information available, some cadres of laboratory staff in the professional colleges in Delhi,

maintained by the Central Government and the Delhi Administration, are on scales of pay different from those recommended by the University Grants Commission. The details of such differences as also the reasons therefor are being ascertained from concerned agencies and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha. •

Export of foodgrains to U.S.S.R.

68. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestions from any quarter to export foodgrains to U. S. S. R. in the wake of the reported U. S. decision to cancel exports to U. S. S. R.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) The Soviet side has not approached us for export of foodgrains from India to U.S.S.R. in the wake of the reported U.S. decision to cancel its export of grains to U.S.S.R.

(b) Does not arise.

Irregular supply of electricity and diesel to States

69. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called for reports from the various State Governments about the difficulties being experienced by the farmers on account of irregular supply of power and diesel;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial measures are being contemplated in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) The state Governments have been advised by the Departments of Power, Petroleum and Agriculture about the priority allotment of electricity and diesel to the farmers for irrigation purposes from time to time. Recently, after a review of the rabi programme, the Department of Agriculture has asked the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to intimate the arrangements being made by them for the supply of electricity and diesel to farmers to run tube-wells. Information has also been <-sk-ed regarding the timings of electricity supplied to farmers.

(c) The Department of Agriculture is in touch with the Departments of Power and Petroleum for making arrangements for uninterrupted supply of electricity and diesel to the farmers. Regarding electricity,, it has been intimated by the Department of Power that the State Governments have been advised to include power supply for agricultural pumping in Group I of the Essential Consumers which should be given the highest priority in matters of power s apply. The State Governments have also been advised to impose restrictions on other sectors of consumption.

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Regarding diesel, the Department of Petroleum have advised the State Governments to accord the highest priority to agriculture in the matter of supply of H.S.D. The State Governments have also been advised to take effective steps either by promulgation of control orders under the Essential Commodities Act or otherwise to ensure that blackmarketing and other malpractices regarding supply of diesel do not take place. Adequate imports of HSD and kerosens are being organised to ensure that sufficient stocks are available at the main port locations to take care of the full requirements of these two products in the country. Following the disruption in production in Barauni refinery and movement of petroleum products from out of Assam, steps have been

taken by the Department of Petroleum for movement of petroleum products from alternative sources. The State Governments have also been advised to ensure the best possible distribution of the available products. Railway authorities have also been approached for all assistance regarding movement of petroleum products in the country.

"Food for Work" Programme

70. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government, have received complaints from the State Governments that grain allotments sanctioned for the "Food-For-Work" Programme are not being made available to them in time;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action is being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Complaints have been received from some of the State Governments that foodgrains released under 'Food for Work' Programme are not made available by the Food Corporation of India due to non-availability of stocks at some of their depots. This is mainly because of the difficulty of rail and road movement of foodgrain, from one place to another.

(c) The matter has been pursued regularly with the Food Corporation of India and Department of Food, who have taken up steps to augment the supply to the depots, where shortages are reported or come to notice. Instructions have also been issued that when quantity of rice released is not available in stock, but wheat is available in its place or *vice-versa*, the available foodgrains should be supplied, irrespective of the kind of grain mentioned in the release order.