

Appointment of new auctioneers

676. SHRI PRABHU SINGH: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to the effect that the auctioneering contracts of the D.G.S. & D. for the period 1973-76 will not be extended further and new auctioneers will be appointed before the expiry of the extended term of the existing contracts;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for which the auctioneering contracts have been extended again and new auctioneers have not been appointed as yet; and

(c) by when Government propose to invite tenders for appointment of new auctioneers and by when new auctioneers are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAM KIN-KAR): (a) While considering the last auctioneering agreement concluded for the period 1-3-74* to 28-2-77 it was decided that the period of the agreement should be 3 years instead of 2½ years, as in vogue upto that time, with a view to ensuring that sufficient time was available for watching the working of the agreement and avoiding, so far as practicable, the necessity of utilising the services of the working auctioneers beyond the term of their appointment on extension basis. However, Government reserved the option to extend it by another year.

(b) Action for concluding fresh agreement was initiated on 19-8-76 and tenders invited were opened on 7-12-76. A number of tenderers were found to have quoted very low and unrealistic rates of Commission which appeared to be based on their inadequate knowledge about the duties ex-

pected of them and a working group was set up to spell out the duties of auctioneers in detail, to examine what should be the realistic norms of Commission vis-a-vis these duties and to revise the relevant terms and conditions of the agreement, incorporating new terms and conditions, where considered necessary. The Group after holding several meetings recommended major changes in the terms of conditions of the agreement, which required to be examined in depth in consultation with the Ministry of Law, which required some time. In the circumstances the tenders received were allowed to lapse.

(c) Tenders are proposed to be invited on the basis of revised terms and conditions very shortly, and the new auctioneers are expected to be appointed thereafter on examination of the responses.

Foodgrains supplied to State Governments for use in Payment of Wages

677. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state the quantum of foodgrains demanded and supplied to each State upto the 28th February, 1978 under the scheme which provides for the payment of wages in the form of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): Requests for 5,83,970 metric tonnes of wheat and 21,688 metric tonnes of milo under the scheme were received from State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Against this 1,58,840 metric tonnes of wheat and 1850 metric tonnes of milo have been released to the State Governments of Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maha-