

address at Kanpur on or about 11th October, 1974 while inaugurating the Arya Samaj Centenary function has made an appeal to the foodgrain hoarders and big farmers to voluntarily bring out their hoarded stocks;

(b) if so, to what extent foodgrain hoarders and big farmers have been influenced by the appeal; and

(c) what steps the various State Governments have taken to seek the help and cooperation of the villagers in locating the hoarders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) to (c). The Union Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation observed that holding back of stocks by traders and big farmers was one of the major factors contributing to the food shortage being experienced in the country. As a result of the recent dehoarding campaign there has been some fall in the prices of foodgrains and other essential commodities and sizeable quantities of foodgrains have also been dehoarded. The State Governments are free to take the assistance of the villagers for locating the hoarders and are taking all necessary steps to ensure the success of the de-hoarding campaign.

Foreign assistance to meet Food shortages

332. SHRI L. MAHAPATRO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many foreign countries have offered to assist India to tide over the food crisis this year, if so, the names of the countries and the nature and extent of their offer; and

(b) the extent to which the food shortage is likely to be met by such offers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Some foodgrain

surplus exporting countries have been approached for finding out how much of food grains can be made available by them to India and on what terms. The response of these countries is awaited. However, the offers of the Food Aid amounting to about 2.17 lakh tonnes have already been accepted from Canada, Australia, UK, and EEC. *

Cauvery water dispute

333. SHRI B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY : SHRI B. RACHAIAH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 304 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th July, 1974, and state the progress so far made in the settlement of the Cauvery Water Dispute ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI K. N. SINGH) : The Additional Secretary has since completed discussions with the Technical Officers of the three concerned States i.e. Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, regarding the scope for possible economy in the existing and future uses of Cauvery waters. Further discussions with the Chief Ministers of the concerned States are proposed to be held shortly. •

Fall in the prices of essential commodities

334. SHRI B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY : *

SHRI B. RACHAIAH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of several essential commodities have shown a sharp fall in many parts of the country following the massive crack-down on smugglers and black-money operators?

(b) if so, the details of such essential commodities and to what extent the prices have fallen ?