

Less supply of rice in bags of F.C.I.

201. SHRI B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received complaints from the State regarding less supply of rice from the bags of the Food Corporation of India from the Punjab Centre; and

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard and if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b) No such complaints have been received by Government.

Outbreak of Malaria epidemic in the country

202. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of malaria have been constantly on the increase especially in the State of Karnataka despite anti-malaria steps taken by the Central Government; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that 'Paucity of Funds' is the primary cause for the re-appearance of malaria which has spread to alarming proportions in the entire country especially Karnataka State, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Union Government have taken to help the State fight malaria?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU) : (a) and (b) The incidence of malaria in the country as a whole has, of late, been on the increase and can be attributed to the following reasons:

1. Difficulties in the timely procurement and distribution of insecticides in adequate quantities;

2. Development of resistance to conventional insecticides by certain types of mosquitoes in some areas; and

3. Rapid urbanisation and industrialisation resulting in increase in mosquito-genic conditions.

The incidence of Malaria is on the increase in the State of Karnataka also for the last few years. The main reasons for increase in the incidence in Karnataka are the following, though paucity of funds is also a contributory factor:

(i) Inadequate vigilance and supervision activities and poor spray coverage and

(ii) Inadequate staffing of technicians and supervisory staff.

(c) The following steps have been taken to help the State Government in checking the malaria incidence in Karnataka:

1. The State Government has been asked to intensify spray and vigilance/surveillance operations and to fill up the vacant posts.

2. Adequate quantities of insecticides have been allotted for the year 1974-75.

3. Necessary funds to meet the operational costs in Attack and consolidation phases areas of the State have been allocated.

4. Urban Malaria Scheme has been introduced in the towns of Bellary and Bangalore city.

203. [Transferred to the 1st August, 1974.]

Loss suffered by Indian Water Transport Corporation

204. SHRI R. K. MISHRA :
SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the loss suffered by the Indian Water Transport Corporation since it was set up;