

Shortage of Raw Material to the Vanaspati Industry

310. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:

SHRI M. K. MOHTA:

SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO:

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the vanaspati industry is facing acute shortage of raw material for quite sometime past as a result of which a number of units in Bombay and other parts of the country were closed of own; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to supply the requisite quantity of raw material to the industry at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) Yes, Sir. The industry has been experiencing shortage of raw oils during most part of the current year (1973-74). With the on set of the new groundnut season, the position had improved during November and December, 1973. However, a fresh setback occurred in January, 1974 following the sudden, steep and unseasonal rise in oil prices early in that month.

(b) The steps taken by Government included:

(i) encouraging production and usage of substitute indigenous oils like cottonseed, mustard and ricebran in the manufacture of vanaspati (ii) stepping up imports even at high cost in foreign exchange and (iii) discouraging diversion of capacity to non-essential items. The renewed difficulty in January, 1974 was met by efforts aimed at facilitating smoother flow of oil from producing to consuming areas and combating speculative tendencies.

Establishment of a National Institute of Indian Medicine

311. SHRIMATI SITA DEVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for setting up a National Institute of Indian Medicine; and

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (PROF. A. K. KISKU): (a) and (b) It has been decided in principle to set up an All India Institute of Indian Medicine to develop demonstrable pattern of education in under-graduate and post-graduate education in Indian systems of Medicine and to provide facilities for research in the various branches of Ayurveda, Unani and Sidha including physical and biological services during the Fifth Five Year Plan. The details of the scheme are being worked out.

Supply of wheat and rice at fair price shops in Gujarat

312. SHRIMATI KUMUDBEN MANISHANKER JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food situation in Gujarat has assumed alarming proportions with in adequate supplies of wheat and rice through fair price shops to consumers and that they meet their requirements from open market where also supplies are drying up as a result of various curbs on the movement of coarse grains and pulses; and

(b) if so the details of the assistance provided by the Central Government to that State during last four months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): (a) The food situation in the country including Gujarat continues to be difficult. Distribution of foodgrains through fair price shops in the State is the responsibility of the State Government. The State Government have reported that the difficulties are not solely due to curbs on the movement of foodgrains in the State. The State Government however was advised to remove restrictions on the movement of coarse grains within the State.

(b) The following quantities of foodgrains were supplied to the Government of Gujarat from the Central Pool during the last 4 months.