

exemption of mechanised and efficiently managed farms. Such farms were possible under the exemptions provided in the earlier ceiling laws in some States. However, the revised ceiling laws will apply to such farms. The State Governments have been requested to furnish information on the points, which will be placed on the table of the Sabha when received.

Price rise in foodstuffs

*367. SHRI K. P. KUNJACHEN:
SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA
MENON:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the rise in prices of food-stuffs from 30th June, 1971 to May, 1973; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to check the rise in prices thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) According to the all-India index of wholesale prices of food articles, the prices recorded a rise of 31.8 per cent between June, 1971 and May, 1973.

(b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

In order to check the rise in prices, a massive Emergency Agricultural Production Programme was launched for increasing the output of rabi and summer crops. Further steps taken include (i) strengthening of public distribution system and channelisation of all Government stocks through fair price shops; (ii) introduction of control on wholesale and retail prices of wheat products and regulation of distribution thereof through fair price shops; (iii) effective implementation of regulatory laws currently in force; (iv) curb on consumption of foodgrains by enforcement of the Guest Control order; (v) intensification of procurement of foodgrains; (vi) import of foodgrains from abroad; (vii) tightening of control over bank advances against foodgrains; (viii) take-over of wholesale trade in wheat from

the current rabi season and (ix) intensifying action against hoarding and black-marketing etc.

Survey by Asian Productivity Organisation in India

♦368. SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Productivity Organisation has sought information for a survey on the economy of foodgrains distribution in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the result of the survey would be available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) A communication has been received from the Asian Productivity Organisation through National Productivity Council, New Delhi, requesting for detailed information on Survey on economy of foodgrains distribution in the Questionnaire forms prescribed by them.

(b) The details for the survey asked for in the Questionnaire are under:—

1. Domestic production, marketing and prices of rice and wheat in 1960, 1965, 1970 and 1972 along with an organisational chart of representative marketing channels for rice and wheat.

2. Estimated quantity of rice and wheat transported between and within regions.

3. Distance of transportation between representative points of each region.

4. Estimated quantity of rice and wheat transported by different means and types.

5. Number of warehouses for food-grains in different regions categorising into large, medium and small.

(c) The data and information collected will be used as a reference material for the symposium on distribution economy proposed to be held some time in 1974.