

effect from 1973-74 and is intended to meet expenditure on food and incidental expenses of the campers.

Drought affected Area in Maharashtra

1326. SHRI P. S. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the drought-affected area in Maharashtra;

(b) the quantity of wheat asked for by the Maharashtra Government and the wheat actually sent to the State; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to bring down the prices of essential commodities in that State particularly in Bombay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE) :
(a) The acutely drought affected districts were Nasik, Ahmednagar, Poona, Satara, Sangli, Sholapur, Aurangabad, Bhair and Osmanabad.

(b) For the months of January to July, 1973, the Maharashtra Government had demanded a quantity of 18,68,000 tonnes of wheat and coarse grains against which they were supplied 13,00,700 tonnes approximately.

(c) The Maharashtra Government have taken steps to distribute cereals, sugar, cotton seed oil, Kerosene oil and cloth at controlled rates. The State Government have appointed panels for fixing reasonable prices of essential commodities in Bombay. The Collectors have been requested by the State Government to set up such panels at district level. The prices so fixed by the panels are enforced under the Defence of India Rules in the Bombay rationing area. In so far as Food articles are concerned the Maharashtra Government have promulgated the Maharashtra Scheduled Articles (Price Control) Order, 1973, which extends to the

Bombay rationing area, fixing the whole-sale and retail prices for 22 items of Food articles.

Construction of National Highways for Maharashtra State

1327. SHRI P. S. PATIL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount earmarked for the current year and during the next Five Year Plan period for the construction of new Highways and also of conversion of existing roads into highways in the Maharashtra State; and

(b) the length of the road proposed to be converted/constructed as highways during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI M. B. RANA) :

(a) and (b) Presumably the member has National Highways in mind. A total provision of Rs. 1050 lakhs has been made in the budget estimates for 1973-74 for the construction and development of National Highways in Maharashtra State. As regards the Fifth Plan, no decision has been taken so far as that Plan is still in the preparatory stages. At present no road in Maharashtra is proposed to be converted as National Highway during the current year. However, against the aforesaid budget provision of Rs. 1050 lakhs for the current year, development (including new construction, where necessary) of the already existing National Highways and those converted as National Highways during the 4th Plan will continue to be pursued.

Allotment of Imported Tractors

1328. SHRI JAMNALAL BERWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that three imported tractors were allotted by his Ministry to M/s. National Agro-Industrial Co-operation, Delhi and Palwal

1969-70 on the basis of one bogus and forged resolution and certificate granting agricultural land in Tehsil Palwal (Haryana) on lease purporting to be issued by the local Agricultural Authorities;

(b) whether these tractors have been sold at a high premium by the Executive Director of the above organisation contravening the very purpose and condition of the allotment and the vehicles Act by issuing one Affidavit testifying that he was the sole owner of the tractors and not the organisation; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE):

(a) to (c) The relevant records of allotment of tractors to National Agro-Industries Corporation (a private organisation) are with the C.B.I. in connection with investigations in respect of a complaint filed by the Chief Vigilance Officer Punjab National Bank, Parliament Street, New Delhi. The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Misappropriation of Funds by National Agro-Industrial Cooperation

1329. SHRI SASANKSEKHAR SANYAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints of misappropriation of interest free loan of Rs. 30,000 given to National Agro-Industrial Cooperation, Delhi and Palwal by the Committee of Freedom from Hunger campaign have been received;

(b) whether the above said loan was secured by the above organisation on the basis of bogus and forged resolution and certificate granting of agricultural land on lease purporting to be issued by the local agricultural authorities;

(c) if not, the basis of granting of interest free loan to the organisation; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) :

(a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under investigation of the Central Bureau of Intelligence.

(c) An interest free loan of Rs. 30,000/- was sanctioned by the Indian Freedom From Hunger Campaign Society, a registered body under the Societies Registration Act 1860 after making necessary enquiries and in consultation with the State Government of Haryana.

(d) An enquiry was made in the matter and as a result the National Agro-Industrial Cooperation, Delhi have already refunded an amount of Rs. 5,000/- and have also signed a legal bond in favour of the Member is Secretary Indian FFHC Society, undertaking to refund the balance amount in five annual instalments.

उत्तर प्रदेश में उर्दू का अनिवार्य विषय के रूप में लागू किया जाना

1330. श्री राम सहाय : क्या शिक्षा, समाज कल्याण तथा संस्कृति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में छात्रों के लिए उर्दू को अनिवार्य विषय के रूप में आरंभ किया गया है; और

(ख) क्या यह केन्द्रीय सरकार की सलाह अथवा अनुदेशों पर किया गया है; यदि हाँ तो इस प्रकार का निर्णय लिये जाने का आधार क्या है ?