

4. Payment of annual bonus to all safai karamcharies working on drain with retrospective effect (i.e. 1958).

5. Payment of cash in lieu of ladies coat, sandals and saris to female safai karamcharies from 1958 and supply of sari hereafter.

EMERGENCY FOOD PRODUCTION PROGRAMME

151. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the emergency food production programme of Rabi crop is not likely to reach the targets originally envisaged;

(b) if so, the likely production achievement major food crops against original targets; and

(c) the reasons for the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) to (c). As a result of the Emergency Agricultural Production Programme launched by the Government and the beneficial winter rains, area and production of Rabi crops are expected to show an increase over 1971-72 in some of the States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and Haryana. In the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan where rains have continued to be deficient in the Rabi season, Rabi crop output may register some fall. Apart from continuance of adverse weather conditions in some States, the overall shortage of power and fertilizers also might affect the production during the Rabi season to some extent. While increase over last year's rabi production is expected in the country as a whole, firm estimates of production of rabi foodgrains would become available at the close of the agricultural year, that is, sometime in July-August, 1973.

ALLOTMENT OF GOVERNMENT ACCOMMODATION

152. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHI-DEEN: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state the number of Government employees with their priority dates who are likely to be allotted Government accommodation by the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): Schemes for the Fifth Five Year Plan are yet to be finalised. If required funds are available, it is intended to achieve 75 per cent satisfaction in all types in the general pool at Delhi/New Delhi and 40 per cent in other cities where general pool accommodation exists, by the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan. It cannot be anticipated at this stage as to what dates of priority will be covered in different type" by the end of that Plan.

VISION DEFECTS OF DRIVERS OF D.T.C.

153. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHI-DEEN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to a report appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 19th January, 1973 to the effect that half of the Delhi Transport Corporation drivers had defective eyesight; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI M. B. RANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government are aware of the report published in the daily

newspaper mentioned by the Hon'ble Member. As the report was incorrect, a press note was released immediately by the Delhi Transport Corporation management clarifying the position. The facts are that, in 1968, the National Society for the Prevention of blindness-i, attached to Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, conducted an ophthalmic survey of 1286 drivers of the then Delhi Transport Undertaking. This study revealed that 35 drivers of the Undertaking were colour blind while 617 had defective vision. Since then, the services of about 80 drivers have been terminated and a few others have retired or resigned from the service of the organisation. From the year 1969 onwards, every driver recruited by the undertaking is being tested for his vision by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness. About 600 drivers have been recruited after their eyesight was tested by the above Society. Further, during the period of training after recruitment, lectures in first aid pre-monetary system of common eye defects and their social implications are given | explained to the trainees.

154. *Transferred to the 1st March, 1973.*

155. *Transferred to the 1st March, 1973.*

LOANS PROVIDED TO TEA ESTATES

156. SHRI HARSH DEO MALA-VIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much loans have been provided to Tea Estates to date, since the introduction of the Plantation Finance Scheme in February, 1962;

(b) whether any inquiry been made as to the loans thus advanced were used for the purposes for which these were sanctioned;

(c) how much loan is outstanding against the Tea Estates; and

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(d) what is the present rate of loans per hectare of gardens in the plains and in the hills? -

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) Upto 31st January, 1973 a sum of Rs. 8.37 crores have been sanctioned to 210 applicant estates under the plantation finance scheme which commenced in 1962.

(b) Tea Board inspecting Officials visit these estates periodically to check whether the planted areas are being maintained satisfactorily and amounts advanced have been utilised in the manner as envisaged in the Scheme.

(c) An amount of Rs. 4.08 crores is outstanding as on 31st January, 1973.

(d) The present rate of loan is Rs. 11,250/- per hectare for gardens in the plains and Rs. 13,750/- per hectare for gardens in the hills.

APPOINTMENT OF UNQUALIFIED PERSONS IN I.C.A.R.

157. SHRI HARSH DEO MALA-VIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have during the last two years designated many persons as Scientists who are neither Science graduates nor have any research experience; and

(b) if so, whether such designated persons are allowed to scrutinise scientific reports and offer technical comments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) and (b) During the last two years no one has been designated as scientist who does not possess a degree in Science or research experience. However, at the headquarters of I.C.A.R. three scientists were appointed in 1970 who have diplomas