

during the last few weeks ending 20th January, 1973, have either shown a fall or steadiness thereafter.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Steps taken to bring down prices of these commodities include (a) strengthening an augmenting of public distribution of foodgrains through fair price shops and channelisation of all Government stocks through it; (b) introduction of control on wholesale and retail prices of wheat products and regulation of the distribution of the same through fair price shops; (c) effective implementation of regulatory laws currently in force; (d) intensification of checking of Fair Price Shops Food Cards and Establishment Permits; (e) strict vigilance over the open market to check hoarding and (f) curb on consumption of foodgrains by enforcement of the Guest Control Order.

#### HINDI BHAWANS FOR FIJI AND MAURITIUS

138. SHRI O. P. TYAGI:  
SHRI P. S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Institute of India has made a suggestion to his Ministry that Hindi Bhavans should be set up in Fiji and Mauritius by the Government of India on the pattern and lines of the Max Mullar-Bhavan built in India by the Government of West Germany; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in regard to the above proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. This Ministry have not received any sug-

gestion from the Central Hindi Institute or any other Central Institute in India for the setting up of Hindi Bhavans in Fiji and Mauritius. However, the following programmes are being implemented in these countries under this Ministry's Scheme for Propagation of Hind Abroad:

#### FIJI:

(i) Hindi books on various subjects worth Rs. 20,000 have been supplied to our High Commission in Fiji for providing library facilities in that country. Hindi books worth Rs. 15,000 are being purchased for this purpose in 1972-73.

(ii) Three Fijian nationals have been awarded fellowships of Rs. 500 each per month plus cost of International travel bothways for learning Hindi at the Central Hindi Institute New Delhi campus since December, 1972.

(iii) It is also proposed to supply Hindi typewriters to the Hindi Maha Parishad, Fiji in 1973-74.

(iv) A team of Hindi literatures, publishers, poets etc. is proposed to be sent to Fiji in 1972-73.

(v) An exhibition of Hindi books is being arranged in Suva (Fiji) shortly.

#### Mauritius:

(a) A Hindi printing press costing nearly Rs. 1.20 lakhs is being sent to Mauritius as a gift.

(b) Two Mauritian National have been granted fellowships of Rs. 500 each per month since December, 1971 for receiving training in India in different aspect of printing and publishing. On their return to Mauritius, they will be able to operate the Hindi press mentioned above.

(c) Hindi books worth Rs. 32,500 have been supplied to our High Commission in Mauritius for providing Hindi library facilities in that country.

(d) 1400 copies of various Hindi books and magazines published in Mauritius have been bought for distribution to libraries in India.

(e) A goodwill team consisting of Hindi literateurs, publishers, poets etc. is proposed to be sent to Mauritius in 1973-74.

(f) It is also proposed to give in 1973-74 some financial assistance to Voluntary Hind Organisations functioning in Fiji and Mauritius for their activities.

#### TAKEOVER OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT

139. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI:  
Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any directions to the State Governments with regard to the progressive takeover of passenger transport;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and when such orders were issued; and

(c) the progress made in each State in this regard and by what time the process of State takeover of the passenger transport is likely to be completed?

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

(a) to (c). It was in 1954, that Planning Commission first communicated to the State Governments the outlines of a policy of phased nationalisation of the passenger transport. It was indicated therein that, where permits were to be issued to private operators this should be to viable units and periods should not be less than three years. For the management of the State Road Transport Services, Road Transport Corporations should be set up under the Road Transport Corporations Act. Later, the Committee on Transport Policy and Coordination re-iterated that there were valid economic grounds in favour of State Governments proceeding towards enlargement of their own share and that of municipal undertakings in passenger transport. At the tenth meeting of the Transport Development Council held on the 15th and 16th February, 1973, it was suggested that, as a step for the implementation of the declared policy of taking over passenger road transport progressively, the States should nationalise passenger services on all National and State Highways and extend the benefit of road transport to rural areas in the interior of the country on existing as well as new rural link roads even through private operators to break the isolation of our people living in villages from the mainstream of our socio-economic life.

The need for suitable legislative provisions to facilitate and speed-up nationalisation of road transport was also highlighted during the discussions at the above meeting of the Transport Development Council. The consensus that emerged was that separate legislation should be undertaken independently of the Motor Vehicles Act 1939, for the purpose. It was decided that a Committee should be appointed to study the matter in depth and make recommendations.

A Statement showing the position as at the end of 1970-71 insome of the States is annexed.