

the Planning Commission, to open Agro-Service Centres all over the country has been shelved by Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) No Sir, the scheme has not been shelved. The scheme of Agro-Service Centres is being implemented on a priority basis. 732 Engineers! Diploma Holders have already completed their training. 308 are now undergoing training. Of the 732 entrepreneurs already trained, 366 Engineers have established Agro-Service Centres in the various States.

(b) Does not arise.

VISIT OF -RAJASTHAN BY CENTRAL STUDY TEAM

1667. SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Central Study Team which visited Rajasthan's drought affected areas recently, famine and drought conditions in certain parts of the State are "critical" and that the food supply inadequate to meet the requirements; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to meet the food deficiency and to prove the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The report of the Central Study Team which visited Rajasthan in February, 1973 is awaited. However, some parts of Rajasthan have been severely hit by drought this year. Necessary measures have been taken by the State Government to maintain drinking water supply, availability of fodder, public health and to provide employment to the affected population. Reasonable requirements of foodgrains

in the affected areas are being met. Additional quantities of foodgrains have been allotted on the basis of assessment recently made. Against the ceiling of expenditure for central financial assistance of Rs. 6.60 crores fixed, an amount of Rs. 5 crores has been released to the State Government so far.

REQUEST FOR ALLOTMENT OF WHEAT FOR MYSORE STATE

1568 SHRI H. S. NARASIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Mysore have requested the Central Government to allot at least 50,000 tonnes of wheat in view of the grave scarcity conditions obtaining in the northern districts of the State;

(b) if so, whether the request has been favourably considered; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) The Government of Mysore requested for allotment of 48,000 tonnes wheat from Central pool for March, 1973.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the overall availability of wheat in the Central pool and relative needs of other drought affected and deficit States, the reasonable requirements of Mysore Government are being met from the Central pool. Fifteen thousand tonnes of wheat and five thousand tonnes of milo have been allotted to the State Government for March, 1973.

PROMOTION OF OFFICERS IN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL UNDERTAKING, DELHI

1569. SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state: '

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the news item