

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported that on account of failure of crops due to drought, hardship has been caused to small cultivators and landless labourers, but the allegations about the starvation deaths and that thousands of people are leaving their villages in search of food are baseless.

(c) Adequate relief measures have been undertaken by the State Government, which include opening of test relief works, gratuitous relief, distress taccavi, distribution of seeds and fertilizers at concessional rates to small farmers and strengthening of public distribution of foodgrains through fair price shops.]

TAKING OVER OF THE BAPTIST MISSION PRESS

1733. SHRI NIREN GHOSH:
SHRI MONORANJAN ROY:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to take over the Baptist Mission Press from its present owners;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Works and Housing have no such proposal.

EFFORTS TO BANISH HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION FROM THE COUNTRY

1734. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN:
SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government got any special programme to propagate for a determined and united efforts to banish hunger and

malnutrition from the face of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) Yes.

(b) The programme involves a combination of several modern approaches concerned with production conservation and effective utilisation of all foodstuffs, nutrition education, supplementary feeding and fortification of foodstuffs. An attempt to set out an integrated programme involving agriculture, health, education and social service has been made in the Fourth Plan. There has been nation-wide endeavour to develop agriculture, alongwith animal husbandry, fisheries, food processing and storage. In view of the limited resources, the approach has been to fix priorities with reference to needs, classes and areas while agricultural programmes provide generally the main needs of food nutrition as a long term measure. The details of the various integrated programmes taken up in these fields are indicated in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

Special attention is, however, being paid to improve the nutritional status and eradicating malnutrition particularly in the vulnerable sections like pre-school and school going children and pregnant and lactating mothers. These include the applied nutrition and balwadi programmes, the special nutrition programme for feeding pre-school children in urban slums and tribal areas, the mid-day meals programmes in schools, prophylactic programme for prevention of vitamin 'A' deficiency in pre-school children and anemia in mothers and children etc. Efforts are being made to increase the production of nutritious foods like Balahat, weaning foods, protein isolate toned milk, fortification of foods like wheat and bread, groundnut flour, soya flour, nutrition education and extension through mobile vans, community canning centres etc. A total provision of Rs. 191 crores has been made in the Fourth Five Year Plan, for implementation of nutrition schemes by the various Ministries concerned and these efforts are proposed to be intensified and expanded during the Fifth Five Year Plan.

†[] English translation.