

THEFT OF FOOD STUFFS

•488. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* dated the 10th June, 1972, under the heading "75 lakhs rupees worth of food stuffs stolen in six months",

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have fully investigated into these allegations; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken against the persons responsible for this ?

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

(b) to (d) The Food Corporation was asked to report in the matter. The Corporation's report in respect of the allegations of pilferage of foodgrains is as follows :—

Cossipore/Shyamnagar, Kalighat rail yards are under the protection of the Eastern Railways and are properly guarded by them.

The allegation concerning the Shyamnagar siding was referred to the local police who after investigation have reported that there had not been any instance of wagon looting of foodgrains from standing wagons. As regards Kantapukure siding, report of pilferage is not correct as the godown remained closed during the relevant time due to labour trouble and no wagons were received there.

As regards remaining allegations made in the news item further report from the Food Corporation of India, is awaited. On receipt of the complete

report from the F.C.I., action as necessary against persons found guilty would be taken.

बेरोजगार लोगों के परिवारों के लिए निःशुल्क चिकित्सा

489. श्री प्रेम मनोहर :

श्री पीताम्बर दास :

डा० भाई महावीर :

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :

श्री ओम प्रकाश त्यागी :

श्री ना० कु० शेजवलकर :

क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बेरोजगार अथवा अर्धरोजगार वाले व्यक्तियों के परिवारों की निःशुल्क चिकित्सा के लिये कोई केन्द्रीय स्वास्थ्य योजना विचाराधीन है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उसका व्यौरा क्या है ?

FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE UNEMPLOYED

489. SHRI PREM MANOHAR : SHRI PITAMBAR DAS : DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : SHRI J. P. YADAV : SHRI O. P. TYAGI : SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR :

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

(a) whether any Central Health Scheme for free medical treatment of families of the unemployed or under employed persons is under consideration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

[] English translation.

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्री (श्री उमा शंकर दीक्षित) : (क) और (ख) : जी, नहीं। बेरोजगार अथवा अल्प रोजगार प्राप्त व्यक्तियों के परिवारों को निःशुल्क चिकित्सा सुविधाएं प्रदान करने की कोई योजना भारत सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं है।

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. No Scheme for providing free medical treatment to the families of the unemployed or underemployed persons is under consideration of the Government of India.]

BILL TO CHECK AIR POLLUTION

*490. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 496 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st May, 1972 and state:

(a) whether the proposed legislation to check air pollution in the country will be introduced in the next session of Parliament; and

(b) if not, the likely period within which Government propose to bring the Bill before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT) : (a) and (b) The draft legislation submitted by the Expert Committee on Air Pollution Control is being processed by Government. It has been referred to the chairman of the National Committee on Environmental Planning and Coordination. It will also have to be circulated to various States for their concurrence since the subject is in the State List and Part II English translation.

liament can pass a law in this regard only if two or more State Legislatures pass resolutions under Article 252 of the Constitution. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate precisely the time by which the proposed legislation would be introduced in Parliament although Government is keen to do so at the earliest opportunity.

PRODUCTIVITY OF LAND

*491. SARDAR AMJAD ALI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps that are being taken by Government for increasing productivity of land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research have taken up 5 All India Coordinated Project to develop technology for improving productivity of land. In these projects, research efforts are being carried out to develop efficient methods of agronomic practices, fertilisers use and maintenance of physical conditions of soil for obtaining higher crop production.

On the development side, efforts are being made to promote fertilisers use in proper balance suited to the needs of soil and the crop alongwith appropriate micro-nutrients and other inputs. To facilitate this, soil testing facilities have been provided and the farmers are given training in efficient and balanced use of fertilisers. Besides, development of minor irrigation facilities, intensification of plant protection measures, land development and soil conservation are some of the other measures being undertaken to increase productivity of land.