

gical Sciences convened by University Grants Commission, National Council for Science Education, U. S. National Social Foundation and U. S. A. I. D. The University Grants Commission is setting up a panel jointly with the Inter University Board to consider this problem in all its relevant aspects]

RISE IN PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

101. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Food Corporation of India to arrest the pre-harvest rise in prices of foodgrains ;

(b) if so, the main features thereof ; and

(c) the extent to which producers are likely to gain as a result of the initiative of the Food Corporation of India ?

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

(b) and (c) Wheat and coarse grains are being sold by the Food Corporation of India in the open market in order to arrest the upward trend in the open market prices of foodgrains and to bring down their prices. The producers have no direct gain as a result of these open market sales ; they are, however, assured of a fair return for their produce because of the price support policy pursued by the Government.

VARIOUS HOUSING SCHEMES IN FOURTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

102. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA : SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the various housing schemes included in the fourth plan, particularly the schemes for low income groups and industrial workers have not made any satisfactory progress ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the slow progress of the schemes ; and

(c) what steps are being taken to accelerate the schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) The various Social Housing Schemes including those for low income group and industrial workers, which are in operation in the fourth plan, are continuing schemes from a period earlier to the fourth plan. It is correct that the schemes have not made adequate progress.

(b) The main reason for the inadequate progress is the low priority accorded to Housing in the National Planning against competing claims of other priority programmes, such as those of Agriculture, Irrigation and Power etc. Consequently, the resources available for Housing are also limited.

(c) During the Fourth Plan, the State Governments are competent to determine their own priorities and allocate funds accordingly for various schemes. In order to help the States to pay greater attention to State-Sector Housing Schemes, the Central Government have taken over the following two Schemes in the Central Sector :—

(i) Subsidised Housing Scheme for Plantation Workers which provides for 50% loan and 37% grant to the Planters for the construction of houses ; and

(ii) Scheme for provision of House-sites to Landless Workers in Rural Areas for which 100% grants-in-aid are given to the State Governments.

The Housing and Urban Development Corporation, floated as a Central Government Undertaking in April, 1970, also gives financial assistance to the State Governments etc, for executing projects of an economically viable nature including construction of houses for low income groups.

SUPPLY OF TRACTORS

103. SHRI BANARSIDAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tractors in use at present in the country, state-wise ;

(b) the prices of tractors prevailing in the country in the year 1969, 1970, 1971 and during the current year ;