

high level meetings in the Ministry and decisions taken thereon. Further action to implement the various decisions is being taken.

SUBSIDY ON FOODGRAINS

1369. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 275 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th March, 1970 and state :

(a) the names of the States and the amount of subsidy for foodgrains being provided by Government of India to the States and its relevant data for the last three years;

(b) whether Government propose to abolish subsidy for foodgrains keeping in view the improved food situation of the country;

(c) if so, since when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) The Government of India do not give subsidy to any State for procurement or distribution of foodgrains. Subsidy if any is built-in into the issue prices and the issue prices for the Central stocks are the same throughout the country.

(b) to (d) The Government has already reduced substantially the subsidy on foodgrains consistent with the objective of the price policy, viz., ensuring remunerative price to the farmer and reasonable prices to the consumer, particularly the vulnerable sections of the society.

WORKERS EDUCATION

1370. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have reviewed the programme of workers' education;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to enlarge the scope of workers' education?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D.

SANJIVAYYA): (a) to (c) The National Commission on Labour has recently carried out a comprehensive review of the Workers Education Programme and its recommendations are now before Government. A copy of the Report of the National Commission on Labour is available in the Parliament Library.

PLANT PROTECTION OFFICE AT AMRAVATI

1371. SHRI T. G. DESHMUKH: SHRI N. P. CHAUDHRI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Plant Protection and Quarantine Office at Amravati is being abolished; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Plant Protection Station at Amravati has been closed from 28th February, 1970.

(b) The Station was opened in 1957 to assist the State Government with technical personnel, plant protection equipment and pesticides for the control of crop pests and diseases outbreaks. Since Maharashtra State is having now fairly substantial organisation for this work, the Station has been closed.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF PESTS AND INSECTS

1372. SHRI T. G. DESHMUKH : SHRI N. P. CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any research has been conducted in regard to the biological control of pests and insects which are harmful to agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. Research has been conducted and work is also in progress in