

(b) if so, what are the details of the interim proposals now under consideration ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH): (a) and (b). Government have approved of the necessity for imposing a ceiling on urban property. Details of an appropriate scheme are being worked out in consultation with the State Governments, as the subject falls within the State List and Central legislation is possible only as envisaged in Article 252 of the Constitution.

FOREIGN AID

892. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the annual requirement of foreign aid under the Fourth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): The gross foreign aid requirements, excluding food aid amounting to Rs. 380 crores, for the Fourth Plan period have been estimated at Rs. 3750 crores. This means that on an average Rs. 750 crores of foreign aid would be required during each year of the Fourth Plan.

DROUGHT AFFECTED AREAS IN RAJASTHAN

893. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Central team headed by the Adviser, Planning Commission, has visited in May, 1970 chronically drought affected areas in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that sharp differences have cropped up between the Central team and the officials of the Government of Rajasthan on the type of rural works in these areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government of India to resolve those differences ?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d). In the course of its visit to different States, discussions were held by a Central team with the officials of the Government of Rajasthan at Jaipur

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on the 6th May, 1970 on the formulation of schemes to be taken up under the rural works programme in selected chronically drought affected districts in the State. With a view to have a balanced approach which would enable programmes of lasting benefit being taken up in such areas, broad guidelines about the nature and the scope of the schemes were discussed with the officials of the State Government. The Government of Rajasthan have again been requested to formulate their schemes accordingly. These will be finalised by the Central team in consultation with the officials of the State Government.

RATIONALISING THE PURCHASE MECHANISM

894. DR. DEBI PRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently taken a decision to the effect that Government purchases will be made from all the States, as far as practicable, and not confining these purchases to a few metropolitan cities, industrial areas and these purchase regions; and

(b) whether Government have decided to increase the number of registered firms to rationalise the mechanism of purchase ?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) The purchase policy followed by the Central Purchase Organisation has always been to make purchases on an all-India basis on the strength of competitive quotations received, and not from a few metropolitan cities, industrial areas or selection regions;

(b) The policy of the DGS&D is to encourage as many firms as possible to get themselves registered with them as approved contractors. The firms are invited to get themselves registered by advertisements in the leading newspapers and the Indian Trade Journal from time to time, so as to ensure that the Government purchases are made at competitive and economical rates from approved and established suppliers.

ALLEGED ARRESTS OF EMPLOYEES OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA, CALCUTTA

895. DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several employees of the Geological Survey of