

(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

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

India in Calcutta have been recently arrested and that several others have been put under suspension;

(b) whether Government have received a memorandum from the employees of the Geological Survey of India in Calcutta listing certain allegations regarding the behaviour meted out by the Director General of the Survey, Calcutta, to the employees of the office; and

(c) what is Government's reaction regarding the allegations including the use of police made against the Director General G.S.I., Calcutta ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY) : (a) Two employees were arrested by the police and 44 employees placed under suspension.

(b) and (c) No memorandum from the employees of the Geological Survey of India as such was received. A letter was, however, received from the unrecognised Stall body namely Geological Survey of India Staff Union making allegations of misbehaviour by the Director General, Geological survey of India towards them on 22-8-1969 and on 21/22-5-1970.

The allegations are baseless since there had never been any incident of the type as alleged. On the contrary, the Staff Union members were palpably guilty of gross misconduct and indiscipline and took recourse to means bordering on criminal obstruction and intimidation to the Director General, Geological Survey of India even*in a public thoroughfare on more than one occasion.

For their indiscipline and negligence of duties, 44 employees had to be suspended consequent on their failure to reply to show cause notices. The suspension orders were duly followed by charge-sheet. The Government have revoked the suspension orders with effect from 20th July, 1970 after the concerned employees have expressed regret for their activities.

The police assistance was necessitated on 3-7-1970 when three officers of the Geological Survey of India at Calcutta with valid driving licence wanted to take out vehicles from the garrage on urgent work but they were intercepted by the suspended employees who in fact put barricades on the way out. They were requested to keep themselves out from the passage but of no avail. Their illegal

and wrong action necessitated police help. On being warned by police, all excepting two Geological Survey of India employees dispersed and consequently the two were arrested. These two have been released on bail.

CEILING ON URBAN PROPERTY

896. SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state ;

(a) whether there were any deliberations between the Prime Minister with the Chief Ministers of various States recently regarding introduction of ceiling on urban property; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held regarding ceiling on urban property ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

APPLICATIONS FOR JOBS WITH F.A.C.T., LTD.

897. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 358 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th May, 1970 and state;

(a) whether the examinations for the posts of Executive Trainees in the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. were subsequently held;

(b) if so, when these examinations were held ;

(c) whether the candidates were paid any travelling allowance; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : (a) Yes.

(b) 13th June, 1970.

(c) Yes, travelling allowance was paid to all the candidates who had to travel more than 50 Kms. to attend the examinations.

(d) Does not arise.