

to the parties. The Council also considered a few complaints of alleged interference with the freedom of the Press. One of them was rejected and others are pending for ascertainment of further facts.

(c) Does not arise.

FOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

716. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Food Advisory Council has been constituted by Government; and

(b) if so, what are the functions of the Council ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Council is an advisory body consisting of representatives of producers, foodgrains trade, consumers, co-operatives and other interests and has been set up to provide a forum for reflecting the various points of view on food and agricultural problems as well as to enable them to make an effective contribution in the formulation and implementation of food policies. The terms of reference of the Council cover all aspects of food policy, viz., prices, procurement, distribution and movement.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE DISTRIBUTION OF TRACTORS

717. SHRI SWAISINGH SISODIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of complaints have been received from the farmers against the system of distribution of tractors;

(b) the action taken by Government in the matter;

(c) the total requirement of tractors in Madhya Pradesh during the current year as demanded by the State Government; and

(d) the number of tractors likely to be allotted to Madhya Pradesh during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) A few complaints have been received against the mode of distribution adopted by some of the State Agro-Industries Corporations in the distribution of imported tractors. These complaints have been forwarded to the concerned Corporations for appropriate action.

(c) The total requirement of tractors during the current year as intimated by the State Government is for 2400 tractors.

(d) The allotment of tractors to various States including Madhya Pradesh will be made only after the import is finalised.

AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY IN KERALA

718. SHRI B. V. ABDULLAH KOYA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the time likely to be taken to establish an Agricultural University in Kerala with Central assistance; and

(b) the steps taken so far in this regard and the extent of assistance given by the Centre for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) The State Government of Kerala have yet to take a final decision on the establishment of an Agricultural University in the State. Since the decision rests with the State Government, we cannot say how much time this is likely to take.

(b) The State Government appointed an Officer on Special Duty in January, 1968 for taking up preliminary work in connection with the establishment of Agricultural University in the State. The report of the Special Officer on the project has been received in February, 1969. It has been examined by Technical Officers of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the views of Government of India will be shortly communicated to the State Government.

PURCHASE OF U.S. RICE

719. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHIDEEN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :