

ASSESSMENT OF FOOD SITUATION

370. SARDAR HARCHARAN SINGH DUGAL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently made any assessment of food situation in the country in the context of drought, famine and flood conditions prevailing in certain regions ;

(b) if so, the details of the assessment made in this regard; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to meet the requirements of the country during the years 1969 and 1970 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) An assessment of the food situation in the country is made on a continuous basis from month to month.

(b) The over-all situation is well in hand.

(c) For the current year foodgrains procured from within the country and from imports is expected to be sufficient for public distribution and for building up a reasonable buffer stock. For 1970, the measures will depend on the 1969-70 kharif and rabi harvests.

RATES OF ADMISSION IN CINEMA HALLS

371. SHRI M. SRINIVASA REDDY: SHRI Y. A. ADINARAYANA REDDY :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Motion pictures Association has sought permission to fix the rates of admission in Cinema Halls ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The matter is under consideration by the Delhi Administration in consul-

tation with the Delhi Motion Pictures Association. The ultimate decision lies with the Administration.

372. [Transferred to the 31st July, 1969]

C. H. S. FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF P. & T DEPARTMENT

373. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government Contributory Health Scheme has not been extended to the Employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) how much expenditure is being incurred annually, and in particular during the year 1968-69 by way of reimbursement of medical charges to these Employees ;

(d) whether Government propose to effect economy in this increasing expenditure ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Madam. The P. & T. Department has either been participating or has agreed to participate in the Central Government Contributory Health Scheme wherever it is in existence.

(c) The figures of expenditure during 1968-69 are under compilation. However, it was Rs. 2.94 crores during 1965-66, Rs. 3.95 crores during 1966-67 and Rs. 4.51 crores during 1967-68.

(d) and (e) Suitable measures have been taken to check the rising trend in expenditure on medical reimbursement such as—

(i) Opening P. & T. dispensaries.

(ii) Restriction on the number of authorised medical attendants as also on the chemists at various places.

(iii) Participation in the C. G. H. S. wherever it is extended.

(iv) Strict check of all claims for reimbursement of medical expenses and investigation of all