

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) and (b) The news-item did attract the notice of Government and on enquiry it has been found that the question put to Shri I. C. Puri, an officer of the Food Corporation was "what would happen if there are a succession of bumper crops and there is no domestic demand for wheat" and Shri Puri's answer was that we could then export wheat. We have not yet become surplus in wheat and the question of exporting any wheat during this year does not arise.

(c) Nepal Government approached us for supply of some wheat at one stage. They have since withdrawn the request.

(d) Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Kerala and Jammu & Kashmir have asked for wheat though all of them have not asked specifically for wheat of any particular source.

LOAN FROM PROVIDENT FUND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FLATS IN CALCUTTA

*292. SHRI YELLA REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a sum of Rs. 34 lakhs came as loan from Provident Funds for construction of block of flats called Ratnakar at 4, Chowrin-ghee Lane, Calcutta for a cooperative society formed by senior officers of companies owned by Birla Brothers Limited;

(b) whether it is a fact that this house has been rented out already in violation of the rules governing provident fund loan; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI S. C. JAMIR): (a) No such loan has been granted from workers' provident funds created under the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952.

{b) and (c) Do not arise.

IMPORTS UNDER P. L. 480

♦293. SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON: SHRI M. V. BHADRAM : SHRI K. DAMODARAN :

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

(a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested to the Central Government that it would be desirable to stop import of foodgrains under P.L. 480 within the next three years;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in affirmative, whether Government agree with the suggestion; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to eliminate imports of P.L. foodgrains within the next three years?

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

(c) A New Strategy of Agricultural Development involving Multiple Cropping, Minor irrigation for intensive cultivation, high yielding varieties programme, etc., has been adopted under which it is expected that the foodgrains production by 1970-71 will match the requirements.

COOPERATIVE PROCESSING UNITS

♦294. SHRI J. S. TILAK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government propose to embark on a centrally sponsored scheme for the establishment of export-oriented cooperative processing units during the Fourth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, when this scheme will be actually ready for implementation; and

Cc) how many units of the scheme will be started in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) to (c) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for establishment of export oriented co-operative processing units is in

operation since 1967-68. The question of its continuation during the Fourth Five Year Plan is at present under consideration.

खेमकरन में इमारतों का निर्माण

*295. श्री बी० एन० मण्डल : क्या श्रम तथा पुनर्वासि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1965 में भारत-पाक संघर्ष के दौरान खेमकरन में जो गैर-सरकारी मकान नष्ट हो गए थे क्या वे उस समय नष्ट हुई सरकारी इमारतों के साथ-साथ सरकारी खर्च पर पुनः बनाए जा रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इनके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) उक्त संघर्ष के दौरान वहां पर कितने गैर सरकारी मकान नष्ट हुए और उनमें से कितने पुनः बनाए जा चुके हैं ?

CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS AT KHEM KARAN

295. SHRI B. N. MANDAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private houses destroyed at Khem Karan during the Indo-Pak conflict in 1965 are being reconstructed at the expense of Government along with the reconstruction of Government buildings destroyed at that time;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of private houses destroyed there during the said conflict and how many of them have since been reconstructed?

पुनर्वासि मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री डी० आर० चट्टान) : (क) और (ग) अगस्त सितम्बर 1965 में हुए भारत-पाकिस्तान संघर्ष के दौरान खेमकरन में नष्ट हुये गैर-सरकारी मकानों के स्वामी उन मकानों के पुनर्निर्माण के लिये सरकार से विनीय सहायता पाने के पात्र हैं। अब तक 1940 मामलों में से 1546 मामलों में राज्य सरकार द्वारा इस प्रकार की सहायता मंजूर की गई है।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) and (c) Owners of private houses, destroyed at Khem Karan during the Indo-Pak conflict of August-September 1965, are eligible to receive financial assistance from Government for reconstruction of such houses. Such assistance has been sanctioned in 1546 out of 1640 cases by the State Government so far.

(b) The question does not arise.]

ACCIDENT IN KAPSARA COLLIERY

*296. SHRI P. C. MITRA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any accident recently in Kapsara Colliery near Nirsa in Dhanbad District, causing entrapment of a large number of miners underground;

(b) if so, the number of bodies that have been removed from the debris and the number of victims who have been declared missing; and

(c) the steps taken by Government so-far to find out the missing miners?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

In Mugma coalfield, at the Pure Kapsara mine, which remained closed from December, 1966 after the issue of the orders of the Directorate General of Mines Safety prohibiting employment of persons due to unstable condition of the underground workings, surreptitious winning of coal from the underground was detected by the Directorate General of Mines Safety. As the owner of the closed mine could not be traced, the matter was brought to the notice of the civil and police authorities concerned with intimation that the workings of the mine were in extremely dangerous condition. The Joint Director of Mines Safety of the region held a meeting of managers of adjoining mines in March, 1968, to ensure that they did not purchase any coal from the persons who brought out such coal and the managers had agreed to it. On the night of 29/30 March, 1968 when the coal surreptitiously brought out earlier