

NATIONAL FOOD BUDGET

299. **SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN**: Will the Minister of **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE** be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 615 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd August, 1968 and state:

(a) whether the information and statistics required for the preparation of a National Food Budget has since been collected and a draft of the budget has been formulated; and

(b) if so, the broad details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

CLOSURE OF OFFICES OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

300. **SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD**: Will the Minister of **SOCIAL WELFARE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have closed down the offices of Assistant Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in various States;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed few regional officers to look after the administration by those offices;

(c) the reasons for closing down these offices; and

(d) the amount that is likely to be saved by Government due to their closures?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI J. B. MUTHYAL RAO): (a) to (c) The Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been made responsible only for his Constitutional functions and he has been relieved of the development work which is properly the function of the Government. Accordingly, the regional offices which were formerly under the Commissioner

have been taken over under the Department of Social Welfare and reorganized into five offices with headquarters at Baroda, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Madras and Patna respectively.

(d) The saving is estimated at Rs. 50,000 per annum.

SURRENDER OF AMOUNT DURING THE THIRD PLAN PERIOD

301. **SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD**: Will the Minister of **SOCIAL WELFARE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of about rupees eight crores was surrendered by the Department of Social Welfare during the Third Plan period;

(b) if so, the scheme for which the amount was intended to be utilised; and

(c) the reasons for surrendering this amount?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI J. B. MUTHYAL RAO): (a) According to revised estimates, there was a saving of Rs. 5.61 crores against a budgetted provision of Rs. 74.36 crores for Backward Classes.

(b) Most of the savings accrued under the budget head for grants-in-aid to State and Union Territory Governments for the Welfare of Backward Classes.

(c) The main reasons were:—

(i) "National Emergency" declared after the China's aggression resulting in tightening of the economy and review of priorities; (ii) inability of States to raise matching resources for Central grants.

STRIKE BY R.M.S. PERSONNEL

302. **SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA**: Will the Minister of **COMMUNICATIONS** be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the R.M.S. personnel going on strike on the 18th September 1968;