

the Consortium has already appreciated. Canada has pledged food assistance worth U.S. \$46 million. Supply of 1.5 million tonnes under U.S. PL-480 is expected to be authorised shortly. Besides direct food assistance, indirect assistance can be in the shape of financing fertilizers, pesticides etc. for growing more food, or of debt rescheduling and other types of assistance which would release our cash resources for the purchase of food on World markets. The nature and extent of assistance of the latter type is under consideration of the member countries and institutions of the Consortium.

STABILISATION OF PRICES

♦473. SHRI K. SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a scheme for freezing the ex-factory prices of manufactured articles of essential consumption for one year; and

(b) if so, what steps are envisaged under the scheme to stabilise cost of production of these articles; and what articles are included under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

FOREIGN LOANS

♦474. SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR: SHRI R. P. KHAITAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the up-to-date position of foreign loans:

(b) whether repayment have been re-scheduled; and

(c) what is the estimated total of fresh foreign loans which Government propose to borrow for the Fourth Plan?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix LX, Annexure No. 30.]

(b) No, Sir. However, the members of the Aid India Consortium have under their consideration our request for debt relief in the context of and as a form of non-project assistance with a view to increasing the net inflow of aid.

(c) According to the Draft outline of the Fourth Plan, the gap in foreign exchange resources to be covered by inflow of capital from abroad is placed at Rs. 6,300 crores. A part of this is expected to be met from inflow of private foreign capital and the rest represents the requirements of foreign aid in the shape of loans and grants.

FLOOD CONTROL SCHEME FOR PUNJAB

*475. SHRI RAM CHANDER: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab have submitted to Government Rupees 80 crores flood control scheme for that State;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and whether it has had Government's approval; and

(c) what Central assistance is to be given for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

EXPENDITURE ON SPECIAL PAY TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

*476. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total amount of expenditure that has been incurred by the Central Government during the last two financial years on account of payment of special pay to various grades of its officers?