

SCARCITY CONDITIONS

*17. SHRI MAHAMMED HANEEF: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scarcity conditions still prevail in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken so far or are proposed to be taken to alleviate these conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) As a result of deficient rains last year, scarcity conditions are prevailing in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. There has been no report of scarcity conditions from Himachal Pradesh.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Relief works have been started both in Bihar and U.P. to provide employment and purchasing power to the affected population. According to latest reports, the number of persons engaged on relief works in Bihar is 3,38,371. In addition, 3,24,412 persons are engaged on Plan Schemes. In U.P. the number of persons engaged on relief works is 1,41,937.

2. The Central allotments of imported foodgrains to Bihar and U.P. have been progressively stepped up. The figures of allotments are as follows:—

	('000 tonnes)	
	Bihar	Uttar Pradesh
October 1966.	72	40
November 1966	110	67
December 1966	152	91
January 1967	175	100
February 1967	179.5	126
March 1967	178	125
(upto 15-3-67)		

3. Gratuitous relief is being given to the old and the infirm who are unable to work on relief works. The number of persons receiving gratuitous relief at present is 3,23,922 in Bihar and 82,423 in U.P.

4. The following quantities of gift foodstuffs have been allotted to Bihar and U.P. for free distribution:—

	(in tonnes)		
	Wheat	Milkpowder	Biscuits
Bihar	8000	8152	147
U.P.	5000	3444	70

5. A large-scale feeding programme for the benefit of children and expectant and nursing mothers has been organised in collaboration with CARE and UNICEF. The number of beneficiaries from this programme at present is:—

Bihar	11,17,700
U.P.	4,00,000

Target of beneficiaries for Bihar is 6 million and for U.P. 1 million.

A number of voluntary organisations, including the Bihar Relief Committee, the Rama Krishna Mission, Catholic Relief Services etc., have also set up free kitchens.

6. The Ministry of Health and Family Planning have allotted a substantial quantity of vitamin tablets, baby food, medicines etc. to these States to ward off or combat diseases resulting from scarcity conditions.

7. Plans to supply drinking water in drought-affected areas of Bihar and U.P. have been drawn up by the State Governments. The cost of the Bihar plan is about Rs. 507 lakhs and that of the U.P. plan is about Rs. 372 lakhs. In Bihar about 100 rigs are being mobilised for sinking of tubewells. A number of specific rural water supply schemes have been sanctioned, both

for Bihar and U.P. Provision for carrying water by bullock carts, trucks, tankers etc. has also been made for areas where local sources of water supply cannot be ensured. The Bihar Government has been authorised to purchase equipment worth about Rs. 162 lakhs.

8. A plan for the protection and feeding of cattle has been drawn up for Bihar. It involves an expenditure of Rs. 7.43 crores. The broad features of the plan are the establishment of cattle camps and import of fodder and concentrates from other States and their distribution on a 'no profit no loss' basis. Provision also exists for free distribution in suitable cases. There is also a scheme to grow quick-growing fodder crops on 1,30,000 acres. Seeds for this purpose will be supplied free.

9. A sum of Rs. 13.50 crores has been given to Bihar in the shape of loans and grants. No advance of funds has been made to U.P. Government as their ways and means position is satisfactory. But the total expenditure incurred by the U.P. Government on relief operations will be shared between the State and the Central Governments in accordance with the approved pattern of financial assistance.

UNIFORMITY IN PRICE OF SUGAR

*18. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 170 in the Rapya Sabha on the 14th November, 1966 and state whether any decision has since been taken to bring about uniformity in the price of sugar in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): Not yet, Sir.

TRAINER AIRCRAFT REVATHI

*19. SHRI M. D. NARAYAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the result of the test flights conducted by Revathi, the first trainer aircraft designed by the Department of Civil Aviation; and

(b) by when the aircraft is likely to be put to commercial use?

THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) The result of the preliminary test flights carried out so far on the 'Revathi' proto type aircraft, designed by the Research & Development Organisation of the Civil Aviation Department, have shown that the aircraft has basically sound flight characteristics. The aircraft is now undergoing a series of intensive flight trials for the purpose of assessing its performance under various conditions, handling characteristics and behaviour to meet the relevant airworthiness requirements.

(b) The question of quantity production of the aircraft for commercial purposes can be taken up only after satisfactory completion of the flight trials and necessary civil certification of the aircraft.

दिल्ली में चीनी के राशन में कटौती

*20. श्री राम सहाय :

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी
चोरड़िया :

क्या साहब तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली में चीनी के राशन में कमी करने के क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ख) क्या 1966-67 में चीनी का उत्पादन कुछ घटा या बढ़ा है ; और यदि घटा है तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?