

Relief, composed of eminent citizens belonging to different political parties, regions and interests. The Committee will advise on the administration and use of the Prime Minister's National Drought Relief Fund and also organise and channelise a nation-wide effort to provide relief to the drought-affected areas. The State Governments will no doubt consider the setting up of advisory committees at different levels in the States wherever necessary.

TAICHUNG NATIVE-1 AFFECTED BY BLIGHT

743. SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU: Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Taichung native-1 is affected by some kind of blight in some of the delta areas of river Krishna which also spread to the neighbouring paddy fields; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to remedy the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA): (a) No. Only in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh there was stray incidents of bacterial blight on Taichung Native-1 crop. The disease did not spread to any other crop in the area.

(b) Bacterial blight had appeared in these cases where the farmers had not taken appropriate plant protection measures as recommended in the package of practices. However, after the affected crop was sprayed with streptocycline, it recovered.

PL 480 AGREEMENT

744. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

LOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States of America has so far not agreed to conclude a fresh PL 480 agreement to supply to India 2 million tons of food grains; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON): (a) The U.S. Government had been moved in August last, for an additional allotment of 2 million tonnes of foodgrains under PL 480 for shipment to India up to end of December, 1966. Additional funds under PL 480 were made available in October, 1966 for purchase of 2 lakh tonnes of grain. The question of further supplies is under consideration of the U.S. authorities.

(b) The delay in the finalisation of a fresh agreement for additional supplies of foodgrains appears to be due to the low state of the U.S. wheat reserves and the enactment of the new legislation amending the United States Public Law 480, which has been completed recently. The U.S. authorities are also anxious, in view of their poor wheat reserves at present, that other important wheat producing countries, who have had bumper wheat crops, should take a larger share in meeting the food shortage in India and in providing a wider base for food assistance to this country.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD INSIDE PUSA INSTITUTE

745. SHRI B. K. MAHANTI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a road inside Pusa Institute of New Delhi is under construction, linking Inderpuri Colony to Patel Road near Shadipur Depot; and