

†[FOOD ZONES

111. SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for abolition of the various food zones and treating the whole country as a single unit is under Government's consideration; and

(b) if so, the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सह-कार मन्त्रालय में राज्य मन्त्रीश्री पी. गोविन्द मॅनन). (क) और (ख) वर्तमान खाद्य क्षेत्रों को जारी रखने की आवश्यकता अथवा अनावश्यकता की समीक्षा समय समय पर राज्यों के मुख्य मंत्रियों के परमर्श से की जाती है। अगली बार समीक्षा करने की तारीख अभी निर्धारित नहीं की गई है। अतः इस समय यह बताना सम्भव नहीं है कि इस मामले में कब अन्तिम निर्णय लिए जाने की सम्भावना है।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON): (a) and (b) The necessity or otherwise of continuing the existing food zones is reviewed periodically in consultation with the Chief Ministers of the States. The date for the next review has not yet been fixed. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate at present when a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken.]

HOTELS IN COLLABORATION WITH AMERICAN INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTELS

112. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have permitted the American Inter-continental Hotels to set up hotels in India in collaboration with the Government of India; and

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions of the collaboration agreement?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

ASSISTANCE FROM ABROAD TO TIDE OVER DROUGHT CONDITIONS

113. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the friendly countries which have recently offered emergency assistance to tide over the drought conditions in the country; and

(b) the nature of the assistance given or proposed to be given by each country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON): (a) and (b) The names of the countries and the nature of assistance offered are indicated below:

Australia.—A contribution of 8 million Australian dollars to be utilised on purchase of wheat, foodstuffs, handling and storage equipment and pesticides.

Austria.—Milk powder and fertilisers worth \$ 1,000,000.

Canada.—An aid of \$ 15 million for the import of wheat, wheatflour, dried peas and milk powder.

Denmark.—There is likely to be an offer of a long term loan of about Rs. 2 crores for the import of milk powder, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.

France.—5000 tons of milk powder worth Rs. 1.6 crores.

Greece.—5000 tons of wheat and one 1000 tons of raisins.

Iran.—Have diverted to India, on wheat ships carrying about 22000 tons of wheat to Iran.

Italy.—Have offered a loan of 2 million which is proposed to be utilised for the import of fertilizers.

Netherlands.—About Rs. 1.33 lakhs worth of milk powder and baby food. A further \$ 1,000,000 for food aid. Also a loan of about Rs. 13.3 lakhs which is proposed to be utilised for fertilizers/pesticides, etc.

New Zealand.—1000 tons of milk powder valued at £ 1,00,000.

Norway.—Possibility of a cash grant of 2.5 million Kroners.

Sweden.—4000 tons of milk powder valued at about 7 million Swedish Crowns (about Rs. 6.3 million).

Switzerland.—A gift of 20 Buhler grain discharging machines valued at about Rs. 25 lakhs.

Vatican.—His Holiness the Pope has made a personal cash contribution of \$ 100,000.

U.K.—An interest free loan of £ 7.5 million for financing freight on shipments of food items from Commonwealth countries, for port equipment, for marginal imports of pesticides/fertilizers and for industrial equipment.

West Germany.—Long term loan of about Rs. 1.4 crores for fertilizers, an outright donation of milk powder worth about Rs. 6 lakhs and also fertilizers worth about Rs. 6 lakhs.

Yugoslavia.—Diverted to India, on replacement basis, 2 ships carrying about 30 thousand tons of U.S. wheat to Yugoslavia. Had also offered two Yugoslav vessels on charter hire for making one or two voyages each.

UNLOADING OF IMPORTED FOOD SUPPLIES AT PARADEEP PORT

114. SHRI N. PATRA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of Central Government officers recently visited the Port of Paradeep (Orissa) to find out the feasibility of unloading imported food supplies from loaded ships at the Port site; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether they have submitted any report; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY):

(a) Yes.

(b) The findings are as follows:

- (1) The Port can receive foodgrain and fertiliser ships as soon as two tugs are made available.
- (2) To discharge the foodgrains on shore from the tankers, booster arrangement will be necessary as the vacuators may not be in a position to discharge over a distance of about 350 ft.
- (3) Semi-skilled/Skilled labourers for bagging and stitching will have to be indented from outside.