

(b) No suggestion from the Government of Madhya Pradesh has been received in this regard by the Central Government.]

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AT SUBSIDISED RATE

31. SHRI RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any arrangements have been made for distribution of foodgrains to Central Government employees at subsidised rate; and

(b) if so, the places where such facilities would be made available ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

RISE IN PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

32. SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE : Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of foodgrains have increased in the country since the devaluation of the Rupee;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase; and

(c) the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken by Government to arrest the price rise in foodgrains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON) : (a) and (b) There has been some increase in the price of foodgrains since 4th June, 1966 *i.e.* prior to devaluation of the Rupee. The increase in the all-India Index number of wholesale prices of food-grains during the period from 4th June,

1966 to 9th July, 1966 is estimated to be about 2.6%. This increase is seasonal in character and similar to the increase in the corresponding period of 1965.

(c) The various steps taken to check the rise in prices of foodgrains in the country include opening of more fair price shops, extension of statutory rationing/informal rationing to more areas, larger imports from abroad, etc. The important step recently taken is the decision of the Government not to raise the issue prices of foodgrains issued from the Central stocks even though the cost of foodgrains has gone up considerably consequent upon devaluation. The issue price of foodgrains from Government stocks is thus being maintained at the pre-devaluation level.

SETTING UP OF RICE MILLS IN COLLABORATION WITH F.A.O.

33. RAJA SHANKAR PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India propose to set up some modern rice mills in the country in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal; and

(c) the places where they are proposed to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON): (a) and (b) The Food and Agriculture Organisation has prepared a project report for installation of 4 modern rice milling units with ancillary facilities in the Thanjavur District of Madras State in the co-operative sector and has offered financial aid and technical assistance for the same. The Food Corporation of India is examining whether any of these units could be set up under their control. The project report of the F.A.O. envisages provision of about 16 lakh dollars under the Freedom from Hunger Campaign and the rupee expenditure of about 46 lakhs to be provided from Indian sources.

(c) Mannargudi, Thanjavur, Mayuam and Kumbakonam are the places which have been suggested for the setting of these units but a final decision is yet to be taken.

TOKEN STRIKE BY I.A.C. PILOTS

34. RAJA SHANKAR PRATAP STNOH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a section of I.A.C. pilots went on a token strike for 24 hours recently;

(b) if so, what were their grievances; and

(c) whether any attempt has been made to set the matter right ?

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

(b) The Indian Commercial Pilots' Association, Bombay Region objected to an Administrative Pilot being deputed for ferrying an aircraft from Amsterdam to India and threatened immediate direct action.

(c) As the objection referred to in (b) above was not valid, the question of setting right any grievance does not arise.

TRANSPORT OF ORES TO PARAUEEP PORT

35. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has worked out the possibility of a cheaper alternative arrangement for transport of ores from Dai-tari mines in Orissa to Paradeep port; and

(b) whether the Ministry has found the present system of transport by trucks to be costly ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Transport and Aviation have examined the feasibility of employing tractor-trailer combinations for

the movement of ore from the Daitari mines to the Paradeep port. These combinations are expected to be more economical than ordinary trucks. Another mode of transport of ore could be by rail but, for the present, movement by the road by tractor-trailer combination is under consideration.

12 NOON

PROCLAMATION UNDER ARTICLE 356 OF THE CONSTITUTION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table under clause (3) of article 356 of the Constitution, a copy of the Proclamation issued by the President on July 5, 1966, under the said article in relation to the State of Punjab.

Sir, I also lay on the Table a copy of the Order dated July 5, 1966, made by the President under sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of the Proclamation. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6414/66].

STATEMENT OF BILLS ASSENTED TO BY THE PRESIDENT

SECRETARY : Sir, I lay on the Table a statement showing the Bills which were passed by Parliament during the Fifty-sixth Session (1966) of the Rajya Sabha and assented to by the President:

1. The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1966.
2. The Finance Bill, 1966.
3. The Kerala Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1966.
4. The Produce Cess Bill, 1966.
5. The Orissa Legislative Assembly (Extension of Duration) Bill, 1966.
6. The Unit Trust of India (Amendment) Bill, 1966.
7. The Asian Development Bank Bill, 1966.
8. The Delhi Administration Bill, 1966.