

खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खां) : (क) तथा (ख) कृषि मूल्य आयोग की छः बैठकें हुई हैं। ये बैठकें 1965-66 के लिए गेहूँ नीति बनाने के सम्बन्ध में महत्वपूर्ण गेहूँ उत्पादन तथा उपभोक्ता राज्य सरकारों के प्रतिनिधियों के साथ हुई। इस बारे में आयोग ने सरकार के सामने अपने सामान्य विचार रखे।

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b) The Agricultural Prices Commission has held six meetings. These were with the representatives of the Governments of important wheat producing and consuming States in connection with the formulation of the wheat policy for 1965-66. The Commission gave its general views in this regard to Government.]

‡WORLD COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND

544. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL SECURITY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian delegation to the World Council for the Blind has submitted any report to Government; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of the report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY (SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The main recommendations are given below:—

1. *Asian Plan.*—Wherever possible, the United Nations and its specialised agencies should encourage the development of regional programmes within the accepted geographical areas of the world with a view to the more rapid development of such opportunities for the handicapped including the blind.

† [] English translation.

‡ Transferred from the 10th March, 1965.

2. *The Rural blind.*—A world wide drive should be launched to make the magnitude of the problem better known and appreciated in all countries having rural blind population and programmes evolved for the education, settlement and welfare of the rural blind.

Specialised agencies of the United Nations, Governments and International Voluntary Agencies for the welfare of the blind should be urged to plan for the training and resettlement of the rural blind in the rural areas and, with this object in view, to set up model rehabilitation projects covering all aspects of training, rehabilitation and settlement for all age groups of the blind.

Every effort should be made to allot suitable plots of land to the landless blind and give them financial assistance for settlement.

All avenues of their employment should be explored. Programmes should be instituted for the training of blind women in domestic science and in agricultural and allied pursuits.

3. *Prevention of blindness.*—(i) W.H.O. and UNICEF should be urged to intensify efforts to promote international programmes for the control of major eye diseases;

(ii) In areas where trachoma and river blindness (onchocerciasis) are major problems, Governments should take steps to control those scourges;

(iii) In countries where the extent and causes of blindness have not been thoroughly investigated, Governments in association with appropriate voluntary organisation, should be encouraged to promote effective surveys.

4. *Integration of the Blind into the Community.*—All Blind persons should have an opportunity through orientation, rehabilitation and general education to develop their abilities. They should be informed of the facilities available to them and encouraged to make full use of them. Efforts should

be made to find employment opportunities for blind persons who are professionally qualified. Employment opportunities for their employment in public services, industry, etc. should be explored.

5. *Aged blind*.—Member Nations, particularly the regional committees of World Council of Welfare of the Blind should give immediate attention to the needs for adequate food, shelter, recreation, medical attention of the aged blind.

6. *The blind with other disabilities*.—The rehabilitation and training of blind persons with other disabilities should be undertaken at regular centres.

7. *Employment opportunities*.—Public authorities should help the blind in acquiring professional experience by organising training centres, granting scholarships and loans for equipment and settlement of raftsmen and shopkeepers. Sheltered workshops should be started for those blind persons who cannot achieve a normal output.

8. *Blind welfare week*.—World Blind Welfare Week' may be organised each year for the welfare of the blind.

9. *Exchange programme*.—The world council for the welfare of the blind should establish a pool of experts in various fields from which member countries can draw for their development programmes and should also establish an Information Bureau at its official headquarters for disseminating information to member countries, organisations for the blind.

10. *Financial assistance to the blind*.—Blind persons should be helped out of distress. The plan of financial assistance should be adapted to rehabilitation and employment. The assistance should be sufficient to cover their common needs for food, clothing, shelter, medical assistance and family life.

12 NOON

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED CONTINUOUS FIRING FROM ACROSS PAKISTAN TERRITORY BY PAKISTANI FORCES IN COOCH-BEHAR DISTRICT

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh): Madam, with your permission, I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the reported continuous firing from across Pakistan territory by Pakistani forces in several areas of Cooch-Behar district.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): Madam, I would ask for the indulgence of the House to permit me to make a statement in the afternoon because certain other incidents of a later nature have taken place, and in the other House also I will be making a statement in the afternoon. So I thought I should make a statement convenient to the House consistent with the other programme. Time at 3.30 P.M. would suit.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Have you finished?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Yes, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think the House would not mind taking up this question at 3.30 in the afternoon.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): The hon. Minister should let us know the position of the reports of the West Bengal Government, the latest report.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Yes, I will.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AMENDMENTS IN THE KERALA AGRICULTURAL PESTS AND DISEASES RULES, 1959

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table, under