

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Delhi Administration made a statement that these raids were not to bring out hoarded food-grains 'but for verification of the stocks; if so, what is the actual position in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) and (b). No statement was made by the police authorities to the effect that they had seized 2 lakh maunds of hoarded food-grains. As news appeared in the papers about the police having uncovered considerable quantities of hoarded grains, the Chief Commissioner of Delhi called a press conference and explained that the operations were conducted for physical verification of stocks with the licensees.

RICE MILL MACHINERY

328. SHRI SIT ARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that a Government delegation visited Europe in the month of July to buy rice mill machinery for the public sector;

(b) if so, who were the members of the delegation; and

(c) what is the result of the visit?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) Yes.

(b) The delegation consisted of Dr. P. K. Kymal, Technical Adviser, Department of Food, Dr. Dorris D. Brown, a Ford Foundation expert and Shri V. S. T. Mudaliar, a representative of the co-operative rice milling industry in India.

(c) The delegation studied on the spot the combinations of the different modern equipments, assessed their technical efficiency, selected six units that are designed to give an increase in outturn of rice from paddy, negotiated prices, arranged for trial run-

ning, of the mil^l and training of Indian technicians, and discussed about the programmes of development of the improved equipments in India.

IMPORT OF WHEAT FROM UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

329. SHRI P. ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America has offered to ship four million tons of wheat to India; and

(b) if so, how much quantity has so far been received?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) At present wheat is being imported from U.S.A. from out of the quantities which were carried forward from the 4 year Agreement of May, 1960 which expired at the end of June, 1964. A new Agreement under PL. 480 is under negotiation with the U.S. Government which would enable imports of wheat to be continued when the present quantity is used up. It is not possible at this stage to indicate the quantity of wheat which would be covered under the new agreement.

(b) Does not arise.

ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL

330. SHRI P. ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have decided to start a Road Safety Council; and

(b) if so, what will be the functions of this organisation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (SHRI I AHMED MOHTUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Government of India propose to

undertake legislation for setting up a National Road Safety Council as early as possible. It has been suggested that the Council may have the following functions:—

(i) to further, encourage, and promote methods and procedures leading to increased safety in the use of roads and prevention of accidents on the roads;

(ii) to watch the working of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 relating to compulsory insurance of motor vehicles against third-party risks and to collect necessary statistics from the police, insurers and other persons for this purpose;

(iii) to assist third parties in securing compensation in road accidents and to provide free legal aid to third parties where claims for compensation are filed *in forma pauperis* or where the claimants are minors or where the annual income of the applicant does not exceed Rs. 1,500;

(iv) to collect, analyse and interpret statistics of road accidents in the country and to publish the statistics and the result of their analysis;

(v) to undertake special studies of accidents and their causes and of accident-prone areas including rail-road crossings, promote, conduct research and/or co-ordinate any researches done by other institutions or organisations on all aspects of road safety and suggest and publicise measures to reduce accidents;

(vi) to carry out national safety check-ups or surveys of motor vehicles independently or in conjunction with other institutions or organisations;

(vii) to assist in the development of vehicle testing stations with a view to eliminating the use of defective vehicles;

(viii) to suggest amendment to the existing law or promotion of new legislation for the purpose of road safety;

(ix) to develop methods for achieving time or space segregation be-

tween mechanically propelled vehicles and manual or animal drawn vehicles;

(x) to suggest (a) traffic signals, road markings and sign-boards for display on roads for the guidance of drivers and other road users; and (b) other measures for the effective enforcement of the traffic regulations;

(xi) to educate road users and drivers of all classes of vehicles in road safety through press, journals, pamphlets, handouts, posters, etc., and other methods, e.g., study courses, broadcasts, films, slides and other audio-visual devices;

(xii) to collect, correlate, publish, distribute and disseminate educational and informative data or literature regarding safety methods and procedures;

(xiii) to undertake, or provide for, the publication of a newspaper, journal, research papers and books, or other publications and materials for the furtherance of the objects of the Council;

(xiv) to undertake, organise and facilitate lectures and arrange conferences and seminars on road safety for the exchange of ideas, experience and information on road safety and accident prevention;

(xv) to stimulate and maintain greater public interest, support and active participation in road safety and accident prevention programmes and to encourage the adoption and institution of safety methods by all persons, corporations and other organisations;

(xvi) to set up and maintain, or to assist in the setting up and maintenance of information services, libraries, museums, road side shelters, exhibitions etc. with models, maps, posters, charts and other illustrated and descriptive publications on road traffic, safe driving, and accident prevention;

(xvii) to draw up specific programmes and lay down syllabus for the education of school children in road safety;

(xviii) to draw up specific programmes for the safety of pedestrians, such, as provision of special facilities such as sub-ways, special signals, etc.;

(xix) to draw up specific programmes for the safety of cyclists, such as cycleways, special signals, driving tests, etc.;

(xx) to prepare schemes and set up schools for the training of drivers in safe driving;

(xxi) to prepare schemes and syllabus and set up institutions for the training of officers responsible for the control of traffic on roads and of the instructors;

(xxii) to recommend the measures necessary to bring motor training schools upto a desired standard and to prepare the syllabus for training;

(xxiii) to organise safety driving competitions and "Road Safety Weeks" and provide incentives for safe driving;

(xxiv) to develop and use any other appropriate channels to further and implement planned programmes of road safety and accident prevention;

(xxv) to co-operate with, enlist, and develop the cooperation of, and between, all persons and other organisations and agencies, both public and private, engaged or interested in, or in any way connected with, any or all of the foregoing purposes (e.g. organise exhibitions on road safety, run institutions for imparting training);

(xxvi) to administer any special funds which are entrusted to it for any specific purpose;

(xxvii) to do any or all such other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of any or all of the above objects and purposes.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

331. SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent Conference of State Ministers has suggested to make a constitutional provision for Panchayati Raj; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any action in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI B. S. MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

OFFER BY ISRAEL TO SET UP MECHANISED FARM

332. SHRI P. ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Israel has offered to the Government of India to set up a lag mechanised farm in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the offer?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

UNLOADING OF FOOD-GRAINS IN BOMBAY HARBOUR

333. SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much tonnage of food-grains can be unloaded per day in Bombay Harbour from the steamers coming from abroad; and

(b) how much amount is required to be paid every-day by way of demurrage to the steamers which cannot be unloaded?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): I

(a) The quantity of food-grains that