

RISE IN FOOD PRICES IN WEST BENGAL

f SHRI M. BASAVAPUNNAIAH: ^m \
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the newspaper reports about the continuous rise in food prices, especially the price of rice in West Bengal;

(b) whether Government have held any consultation with the Government of West Bengal in order to check the rise in prices; and

(c) whether Government have reviewed the price situation since March, 1962?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI A. M. THOMAS):
(a) Yes, Sir, there has been some rise in the prices of rice in West Bengal.

(b) and (c) The position has been reviewed from time to time in consultation with the State Government and in order to arrest the rise in the prices of foodgrains, suitable quantities of foodgrains are being issued from Government stocks for distribution in the State.

DRUGS CAUSING DAMAGE TO EYES

*79. DR. JAWAHARLAL, ROHATGI:
Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the proceedings of a sitting of the House of Lords of the United Kingdom on April 4, 1962, published in the British Medical Journal, pointing the dangers associated with the extensive use of certain drugs which are prescribed for various diseases and are responsible for serious damage to eyes including blindness; and .. 366 RS—3.

(b) if so, what steps, if any, Government propose to take in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The contents of the article which appeared in the British Medical Journal were brought to the notice of the medical associations, Administrative Medical Officers, the Director, Contributory Health Service and the State Drug Control authorities in the country.

TRAINING OF PHARMACISTS

*80. DR. JAWAHARLAL ROHATGI:
Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the allocations for the training of pharmacists in the Third Five Year Plan have been found inadequate; and

(b) the steps, if any, proposed to revise the targets with a view to meet the shortage of trained pharmacists?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): (a) and (b) There is a provision of about Rs. 40 lakhs for training of pharmacists during the Third Five Year Plan period in the States Plan. Besides this provision, there is also a provision of Rs. 20 lakhs in the Central Plan for the same purpose. The amount provided is considered to be adequate.

RATIO BETWEEN MEDICAL MEN AND PHARMACISTS

*81. DR. JAWAHARLAL ROHATGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state the ratio between the number of medical men and the pharmacists that are to be trained in each Plan period and whether the training programme for the two categories of the Health personnel are being followed in each Plan?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Training of Medical men and Pharmacists

There should be at least one pharmacist for every three Doctors. According to the present estimate there are 70,000 practising Doctors and at the end of the Third Plan there will be about 81,000 Doctors; as against this there are about 50,000 registered pharmacists at present. As a good number of these registered pharmacists have not had training in any institution they are to be replaced gradually by qualified pharmacists. In view of the available number of pharmacists, the training of pharmacists has not been chalked out in the same proportion as that of Doctors.

NYLON YARN FOR FISHING INDUSTRY

*82. SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are able to meet the demands for nylon yarn for the fishing industry in the country;

(b) if not, what is the proportion of the supply and the requirement of nylon yarn;

(c) what is our annual production capacity and how much of nylon yarn is imported; and

(d) whether there is any programme to establish more nylon factories either in the public or private sector?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The requirement of nylon twine for fishing purposes during the Third Plan period is estimated to be about five lakh lbs. per annum (costing about Rs. 50 lakhs). The Government of India has been providing facilities for the import of synthetic twine for the fishing industry to the extent of about Rs. 30 lakhs per annum during the last two years.

A number of firms have been licensed to produce nylon yarn and the total licensed capacity per year is 11.5 million lbs. per annum and one firm has gone into production recently,

(d) At present there is no scheme for establishing more nylon factories either in the public or the private sector.

SEA EROSION TO THE COASTAL AREAS OF KERALA

*83. SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware of the great havoc done to the coastal areas of Kerala especially Thottoap-pally, Pallithode and Kozhikode by sea erosion during this monsoon; and

(b) whether, due to heavy loss caused annually by sea erosion in the coastal areas of Kerala, Government propose to take up the responsibility of constructing the groynes and sea walls wherever necessary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Kerala, are responsible for the formulation and execution of anti-sea erosion measures. They are well aware of the situation and are doing their best with the resources available to check sea perosion by constructing sea walls and groynes in the affected coastal areas.

स्वेज में 'इंडियन शिपर' को लगी आग

४१. श्री महाबीर दास : क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इंडियन स्टीमशिप कम्पनी के 'इंडियन शिपर' को ६ मई, १९६२ को स्वेज में आग लग गई थी; और

transferred from the 14th June, 1962