

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.