

land involving and investment of Rs. 2-3 crores in the next 7 to 10 years has been drawn up and is proposed to be implemented in a phased manner. Feasibility of canning industry is also being considered.

Representation from Cannanore Food Corporation

1905. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a request from the Cannanore Food Corporation, Chumattu Thozhilali Union (AITUC) to abolish the contract system in handling the loading, unloading, transportation and storing etc. of the Food materials in the Godowns of the Food Corporation of India situated in Kerala;

(b) if so, what are the main points regarding their demands; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demands of the Unions are:—

(i) that the work of loading, unloading and transportation of foodgrains in the Food Corporation of India godowns in Kerala being handled by private Contractors should be undertaken directly by the Food Corporation of India; and

(ii) the workers employed by the Contractors permanently, should be treated as employees of the Corporation.

(c) Being an operational matter of the Corporation, the representation has been sent to them for examination.

Acute shortage of Food in Gujarat

1906. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:
SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is acute shortage of food stuff in Gujarat State;

(b) whether most of the fair price shops are empty; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to speed up the supply of foodgrains to Gujarat and also open more shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Keeping in view the overall availability of foodgrains and the needs of other drought affected and deficit States, reasonable requirements of the State are being met.

Central Financial Aid to the Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital, Calcutta

1907. SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the financial difficulty in running the Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital in Calcutta;

(b) the steps proposed by Government to overcome this crisis; and

(c) the total amount so far given as grant to this hospital by the Central Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): (a) The Deshbandhu Memorial Trust authorities who are running the Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital,