

Proposal to introduce Grain Shops at Work Place

1043. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce grain shops at work place at subsidised rates to check price rise; and

(b) whether this scheme is likely to be made compulsory for the private employers too?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). The distribution of foodgrains within a State is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The opening of ration/fair price shop at any particular place within the State and choice of the agency to run the shop is a matter for the State Government to decide. The full needs of the State Governments with regard to wheat and milo are being met by the Central Government and the issue prices fixed by the Government of India for these two grains already carried an element of subsidy. The State Governments have also been advised to open more ration/fair price shops in industrial areas and work sites where large number of labourers are involved, in order to make the grains available as close as possible to the people.

Introduction of Total Prohibition

1044. SHRI F. H. MOHSIN:
SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI SKARIAH THOMAS:
SHRI MANGAL DEO:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether total Prohibition would be brought into effect in the whole country;

(b) if so, by what time; and

(c) whether Government intend to introduce total prohibition in the Union Territories immediately?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) to (c). Government's policy on prohibition is already enshrined in Article 47 of the Constitution as a Directive Principle of State Policy. Pursuant to this, a minimum programme for achieving reduction in the consumption of alcoholic beverages was introduced from 2 October, 1975. Further measures to step up the tempo of the programme and to wean people away from the evils of the drink habit would be considered at the next meeting of the Central Prohibition Committee in consultation with the representatives of the State Governments and Union Territories as the production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of intoxicating liquors is a State subject.

Damage due to Demolition in Delhi

1045. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR DHARA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of damage to property, life, and honour of the citizens of Delhi and New Delhi by the demolition squads, and other means of falling houses, building, temples, shops, other constructions during the period of Emergency;

(b) to what extent the authority of the DDA, the NDMC, the Delhi Municipal Corporation and other bodies was wantonly exercise and with what justification;

(c) action being taken by the Government against those who culpably misused the powers vested in them; and

(d) remedial action being taken by the Government to undo the wrongs?