

of several communicable diseases.

A. a Science and Technology mission mode project, use of integrated methods for vector control has been successfully demonstrated in control of malaria and filariasis in some States.

In some other States, the feasibility of this strategy is still in experimental stages.

(b) to (d). Once this strategy has been used successfully in different geographical areas of the country, it would be recommended to the Government to incorporate in the national health programme.

Wage Revision in FCI

755. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pay scales of the employees of the Food Corporation of India have not been revised since 1973;

(c) the constitution of the pay committee appointed to revise their pay scales and the time by which it is likely to submit its report;

(c) whether some of the employees/officers have been given the revised house rent allowance whereas others have not been given the same as yet; and

(d) if so, the reasons for this disparity and the time by which the remaining employees are likely to be given to the revised house rent allowance?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L.BAITHA): (a) The last revision of wages of Food Corporation of India employees was made in 1973.

(b) A High Power Pay Committee (HPPC) under the Chairmanship of Justice R.B. Mishra has been appointed by the Central Government on the directives of the Supreme Court to go into the various as-

pects relating to pay scales and other incidental matters in respect of employees of public Sector Undertakings including Food Corporation of India which are on Central D.A. pattern. Its present term will expire on 30.11.1988.

(c) and (d). Food Corporation of India has extended the benefit of slab system of HRA on the basis of recommendation of HPPC to the Category I & II employees. In respect of their Category III & IV employees, this is not proposed to be implemented for the time being in view of the better rates of HRA proposed in the revision of their wages based on the Memorandum of Discussions held between the Management and four major Unions of FCI employees. These Unions have also represented against the implementation of the above slab system of HRA.

[English]

Increase in prices of Bengal Gram, Rice and Edible Oil

756. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the average consumer prices of Bengal gram, common rice and edible oil during September 1988 in the country;

(b) the reasons for the steep increase in prices of these essential commodities; and

(c) the steps taken to bring down the prices and make available adequate quantities of these essential commodities to the common people?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L.BAITHA): (a) The average retail prices in September, 1988 of Bengal gram, common rice and groundnut and mustard oils in the country are given below:-

Item	Average retail prices in September, 1988 (Rs. per Kg.)
Bengal gram	8.00
Rice(Coarse)	4.32
Groundnut Oil	25.71
Mustard Oil	24.54

(b) The main reason for the rise in prices of these items is the wide-spread drought in 1987 and the consequential fall in production of foodgrains and oilseeds, and after effect of the drought of 1987.

(c) Government has taken a number of steps to contain the rise in the prices of essential commodities and improve their availability. The main thrust of the Government policy has been to increase production of various essential commodities particularly those which are in short supply. Other measures include import of some of the essential commodities such as rice, wheat, pulses, kerosene, petroleum products to augment domestic supply, regulating export of some essential commodities, strengthening and expanding the public distribution system and strict enforcement of provisions of Essential Commodities Act and similar other legislations against hoarders and black marketeers

To meet the situation, the chief Ministers of States and Lt. Governors of Union Territory Administrations have been urged from time to time to strengthen public distribution system, press into operation mobile vans, review continuously the availability and prices of essential commodities through Control Rooms and Committees set up at the State and District levels, intensify de-hoarding operations and take strict action against hoarders and blackmarketeers in accordance with the provisions of Essential Commodities Act and similar other legislations. Available information indicates that State Governments and Union Territory

Administrations have generally taken steps on above lines. The Central Government has also strengthened arrangements for monitoring of prices and availability of essential commodities.

T.B. Hospital for Beedi Workers at Aurangabad (West Bengal)

757. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the progress made in the construction of a T.B. Hospital for beedi workers, the foundation stone of which was laid four years back in Aurangabad in Murshidabad district, West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY) : The construction of the hospital at the site where the foundation stone was laid has not yet started. However, construction of the hospital depends on the required technical and financial parameters being met.

Transfers In Food and Nutrition Board

758. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Government directive to keep both husband and wife at the same station, if both them are working in Government Departments/public Sector Undertakings;

(b) whether certain lady staff working under his department/public Sector Undertaking such as Food Corporation of India. Food and Nutrition Board (Northern Region)etc. have been transferred outside Delhi. in violation of Government's directive;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken to transfer these lady staff back to Delhi/New Delhi?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE