

kharif and rabi foodgrains has suffered. There is, therefore, a natural tendency for the prices of foodgrains to rise because of fall in production. The following steps have, however, been taken to prevent undue rise in the prices of foodgrains:

(i) allotment of foodgrains to the State Governments from the Central pool have been stepped up so that the reasonable requirements of a larger number of people can be met through the public distribution system at fixed prices;

(ii) the Public Distribution System has been enlarged and strengthened. It has now a network of 2.55 lakhs of fair price shops covering 61.05 crore persons;

(iii) free and unrestricted movement of foodgrains from one part of the country to another has been allowed to continue so that foodgrains from surplus areas can freely move to deficit and high priced areas and a balance is maintained in the inter-regional prices; and

(iv) substantial increase of supplies of foodgrains under the Food-for-Work Programme. A total quantity of about 25 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were supplied under this programme during April 1979 to May 1980. These stocks are supplied to the working force in the rural areas at highly subsidised rates and have thus helped the poorer sections of the community.

Occupation of Post Office Building at Budaun

4145. SHRI MOHAMMAD ASRAR-AHMAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the newly constructed Head Post Office Building at Budaun (Distt. Budaun), Uttar Pradesh is lying without occupation for the last over a year and expenditure incurred on both the buildings;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it will be occupied for service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) Civil works in respect of Head Post Office Building at Budaun were completed and the building taken over in August 1979. The Head Post Office and the Divisional Office have not yet been shifted to the newly constructed building. The rent being paid for the two buildings presently housing the two offices is Rs. 1040 per month. The expenditure incurred for constructing the new departmental was Rs. 8,91,168.62.

(b) The Head Post Office and Divisional Office could not be shifted to the new building due to inadequate supply of water because of low pressure in the Municipal Water Supply and improper functioning of the electric points, arising from fault in the local power station cable. Necessary steps are being taken to strengthen the arrangements for the supply of water and proper functioning of electric points and installations.

(c) The two offices will be shifted as early as possible.

Centenary Celebration by Marathi Natya Parishad

4146. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Marathi Natya Parishad is contemplating centenary celebrations to mark the beginning of the Marathi Musical Plays hundred years ago; and

(b) if so, in what manner the various cultural agencies like the Sangeet Natak Academy, National School of Drama, the Songs and Drama Division and the All India Radio propose to participate in this event and thereby enrich the cultural heritage of our country?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION & HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE