

of water mains and storm water drains will be paid, immediately on receipt of a demand letter.

However, the DDA is re-examining the question of payment of peripheral charges by this Society and for such action as may be deemed necessary.

Functioning of Food Corporation of India

2944. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints about the poor functioning and inefficiency prevailing in the Food Corporation of India;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the State Administration are facing a lot of difficulties in obtaining supplies of wheat, rice and sugar from the F.C.I. godowns; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by the Government on these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (c). Complaints are occasionally received by Government alleging inadequate supplies and inefficiency in the Food Corporation of India. The causes of inadequate supplies are constraints on movement and other operational difficulties beyond the control of the Food Corporation of India.

Very close coordination has been established with the Railways for expediting movement of foodgrains to the needy States. Special squads have been set up by the Food Corporation of India for making surprise inspections at the loading/unloading points. Quality control measures are also enforced to ensure that foodgrains of the prescribed specifications are supplied in the Public Distribution System.

Seizure of wheat meant for 'Food for Work' Programme at Gorakhpur

2945. SHRI ASHFAQ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that wheat meant for 'Food for Work' Programme was seized at Gorakhpur, Basti and Deoria Railway Stations while it was being smuggled outside the State and quantum thereof;

(b) the action taken in the matter, and

(c) whether reports of similar incidents have been received from other States also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) Government are not aware of any such seizure.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Purchase of USMA variety of Rice by F.C.I., Katangi, (M.P.)

2946. SHRI NAND KISHOR SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India, Katangi, Balaghat district, (Madhya Pradesh) is purchasing USMA variety of rice as levy rice whereas the people of this area do not consume this variety of rice;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether USMA variety of rice is purchased in the East also; and

(c) whether there is any pressure from the Rice M^{an} Association for purchasing USMA variety of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). During the current Kharif