

dry milk for the refugees of Bangla Desh in India; and

(b) if so, when these articles will reach India?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) and (b). The Government of Sweden has pledged an amount of 4.5 million dollars as Swedish contribution for relief for the refugees from East Bengal; there has been no specific offer of these commodities.

Licence for Starting A Sugar Factory on Cooperative Basis at Dadri District Bulandshahr U. P.

5624. **SHRI HARI SINGH:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a co-operative society of Dadri, District Bulandshahr (Uttar Pradesh) has asked for a licence to start a sugar mill on co-operative basis from Government of India; and

(b) if so, the cause of delay in issue of the licence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH): (a) An application was received in May, 1961 for the grant of an industrial licence for the establishment of a cooperative sugar factory at Dadri, District Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh. This application has since been rejected.

(b). Does not arise.

Decline in Prices of Foodgrains and Due Price to Agricultural Producers

5625. **SHRI ARJUN SETHI:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the reaction of Government to the reported decline of prices of foodgrains all over India in the wake of heavy rains, and uncertain political situation in the same parts which tightens the money condition; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to give due price to the agriculture producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE): (a) The recent fall in prices of foodgrains is mainly on account of increased level of production of foodgrains.

(b) Government are already making massive price support purchases at the procurement prices which are remunerative to the producers.

Registration of Names With Employment Exchange in Birbhum, West Bengal

5626. **SHRI GADADHAR SAHA:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated and uneducated persons of the District of Birbhum in West Bengal, who have got their names registered in the Employment Exchange in Birbhum since 1970 up-to-date; and

(b) the number of persons both educated and uneducated so far registered who obtained assistance in securing employment, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) and (b). The available information is given in the attached statement.

Statement

Category of job-seekers	No. of registrations effected during 1st January, 1970 to 30th June, 1971	No. of placements effected during 1st January, 1970 to 30th June, 1971
1	2	3

1. Uneducated (Below Matric including illiterates)

17,038

3,222

1	2	3
2. Educated (Matricu- lates and above)*	7,341	20
Total :	16,379	3,252

* The data are collected at half-yearly intervals ending 30th June and 31st December each year.

Closure of R.R. shops in Rural Areas of West Bengal due to Inadequate Supply of rice and wheat

5627. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether R.R. shops in rural areas of West Bengal in Birbhum, Burdwan and other Districts therein have been closed down due to inadequate allotment and supply of stock of rice and wheat, and insufficient procurement ;

(b) whether West Bengal Government placed demand to Central Government for additional allotment and supply of rice and wheat for opening the closed R R. shops therein for sale of the articles of Food from the shops at fair price on Ration-Card basis and relief operation ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Production and Consumption of Cashew Apples

5628. SHRI C. JANARDANAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated production of cashew apples in India 1970-71 ;

(b) how much of these fruits is estimated to be consumed as food ;

(c) how much cashew apple is processed or preserved ; and

(d) whether any beverages or cider are now being manufactured in the country using cashew apples.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) About 6,00,000 tonnes.

(b) and (c). Only a negligible quantity of the cashew apple is consumed, processed or preserved.

(d) Yes sir, cashew apple is used in the manufacture of a liquor called "Feni" in Goa.

Introduction of E.P.F. Scheme in Beedi Industry

5629. SHRI MADHURYA HALDAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering the demand to include Beedi Industry into Employees' Provident Fund Scheme ; and

(b) if so, when a decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADIKAR) : (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration of Central Government in consultation with interests concerned.

Consumption of fertilizers in states

5630. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARGHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise consumption of fertilizers during 1970-71 as compared to the corresponding period of 1969-70 ; and

(b) the reaction of Government there-to ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) A statement showing state-wise consumption of fertilizers (in terms of nutrients) during 1970-71 as compared to the corresponding period of 1969-70 is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-716/71].