

nical side the duties of which they can satisfactorily perform in Town and Country Planning Organisation (a subordinate office of the Ministry of Works and Housing); and

(b) if so, the outline thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) and (b). The recruitment rules for most of the technical posts in the town and Country Planning Organisation provide for 100 per cent direct recruitment. The question of granting any relaxation to the departmental Upper Division Clerks/Lower Division Clerks for competing for these posts does not, therefore, normally arise. Departmental candidates can also compete for these posts as direct recruits, provided they possess the necessary qualifications prescribed by the rules.

Request to UNICEF for Drilling Rigs

8573. **SHRI P. M. MEHTA:**

SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has requested to UNICEF authorities for drilling rigs.

(b) if so, whether UNICEF authorities have agreed to India's request?

(c) if so, the total number of drilling rigs that have been requested for; and

(d) whether these drilling rigs will be useful for emergency drought relief in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) to (c). The UNICEF were requested to supply 25 hard-rock drilling rigs for meeting the acute shortage of drinking water in the drought affected

States. The UNICEF have agreed to supply these 25 rigs.

(d) The rigs will be useful for drilling tubewells in the hard-rock areas in the drought affected States for drinking water purposes.

Proposal for a research Station under Spices Commission in Kerala

8574. **SHRI C. H. MOHAMMED KOYA:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to start a research station under Spices Commission in Kerala; and

(b) whether the site has been selected, if so, the location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) No, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is considering the establishment of a Spices Regional Station under the control of one of its Institutes namely the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod

(b) A site has been provisionally selected at Koothali in Kerala by an expert team. A soil survey is being undertaken to assess the suitability of the site.

Grow More Food Campaign to meet challenge of Drought

8576 **SHRI KARTIK ORAON:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched a campaign of grow more food on a well calculated basis to meet the challenge of drought in the country; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of projects?