

Starvation death in Palamau, Bihar

4331. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government are aware of the starvation deaths of Palamau district and foodgrains scarcity in this area; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). The State Government has reported that there has been 10 death due to starvation. Reasonable quantities of foodgrains have been made available to Bihar Government.

Branches of F.C.I. in Bihar during 1973—75

4332. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the F.C.I. will increase its Branches in Bihar in general and Chotaxagpur in particular in the years 1973—75;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) to (c). At present there is no such proposal under contemplation of the Food Corporation. The question of opening its branches will arise only if work load increases.

Milk Booths of D.M.S. in Trans-Jamuna Colony of Delhi

4333. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of booths for sale of milk of Delhi Milk Scheme in Trans-Jamuna area Delhi-51;

(b) whether Government realise that these booths are very few according to population of the area;

(c) if so, whether Government will open more milk booths in the area; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) In the Trans-Jamuna area, there are 10 booths, all of which function in the morning and 5 in the afternoon.

(b) Delhi Milk Scheme open milk booths not on the basis of the total population of an area, but on the basis of the actual demands of D.M.S. milk token holders, residing in the area.

(c) and (d). Action is in hand to construct at least 6 additional milk booths in the Trans-Jamuna area in the next few months.

Implementation of Suggestion of Varishta Panchayats of Dadra and Nagar Haveli

4335. SHRI RAMUBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the suggestions made by the Varishta Panchayat of Dadra and Nagar Haveli are not accepted by the Administration; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to instruct the Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli to accept and implement the suggestions made and the decision taken by the Varishta Panchayat as the Varishta Panchayat is an elected body of the Territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) and (b). The statutory functions of the Varishta Panchayat as prescribed in sub-sections (1) and (2) of Section 4 of the

Dadra and Nagar Haveli Act, 1961 are as under:

"4(1) until other provision is made by law, as from the commencement of this Act, the Varishta Panchayat shall have the right to discuss and make recommendations to the Administrator on,

(a) matters of administration involving general policy and schemes of development;

(b) any other matter referred to it by the Administrator.

(2) The functions of the Varishta Panchayat referred to in this section will be advisory only but due regard shall be given to such advice by the Administrator in reaching decisions on the matter in relation to which the advice is given."

The question of the role of the Varishta Panchayat was considered in the first meeting of the Home Minister's Advisory Committee for Dadra and Nagar Haveli held on 22-12-1972. The Advisory Committee felt that the Varishta Panchayat could give suggestions regarding improvement of roads, electricity, industries etc. and the advice of the Varishta Panchayat would be given due consideration by the Administration. The Administration have decided to consult the Varishta Panchayat on the formulation of plans and schemes and on the selection of road works, minor irrigation projects and educational institutions for which work is to be taken up under the plan.

Vesting of consultative powers in Varishta Panchayat in Dadra and Nagar Haveli

4336. SHRI RAMUBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Varishta Panchayat in Dadra and Nagar Haveli has got no consultative powers based on Panchayati Raj in comparison to other States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government will consider to give consultative powers to the Varishta Panchayat of Dadra and Nagar Haveli for the welfare of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) to (c). In accordance with Section 4 of the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Act, 1961 the functions of the Varishta Panchayat are to be advisory only but due regard would be given to such advice by the Administrator in reaching decision on the matters in relation to which the advice is given. However consequent to later discussions held in the Home Ministry's Advisory Committee for Dadra and Nagar Haveli held on 22-12-1972 it was suggested that the advice of the Varishta Panchayat in the matters relating to improvement of roads, electricity, industries, should be given due consideration by the Administration. The Administration have decided to treat this body as consultative body in practice for the formulation of plans and schemes and on the selection of road works, minor irrigation projects and educational institutions etc. The area and population of Dadra and Nagar Haveli compare to that of a Taluk in States like Maharashtra and Gujarat. The Administration feels that similar decentralisation of powers would make Administration more cumbersome.

अध्ययन के लिए सोनीपत तथा गाजियाबाद जाने वाले विद्यार्थियों के रियायती पासों का जारी किया जाना

4337. श्री ईश्वर चौधरी : क्या नौबहन और परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दिल्ली की शैक्षिक संस्थाओं में पढ़ने वाले विद्यार्थियों को दिल्ली परिवहन विभाग द्वारा रियायती दरों पर 'आल रूट' मासिक पास जारी किये जाते हैं ;