

of spinning mills during the Eighth Five-Year-Plan;

(c) whether any allocations have been made to the States for 1990-91 for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d). A Textile Modernisation Fund with a corpus of Rs. 750 crores was created on 1.8.1986 to meet the modernisation requirements of the textile industry for five years. The outlay under the Textile Modernisation Fund for the Eighth Five Year Plan period has not yet been finalised. Assistance under the Textile Modernisation Fund is not sanctioned on a State-wise basis.

Setting up of River Boards

7142. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water Development Agency has recently decided to expedite the setting up of river boards to strengthen the work connected with the basin planning,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the delay in setting up of the river boards and the time by which these are likely to be set up; and

(d) whether it is proposed to continue the National Water Development Agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). National Water Develop-

ment Agency set up by the Ministry for preparing plan for peninsular river development component of the national perspective have now prepared preliminary feasibility reports for 5 of the 17 transfer links. Accordingly, in the General Body meeting of the NWDA held on 5.4.90, a decision has been taken to set up river boards for the inter-State rivers to strengthen the work connected with basin planning and optimisation of water use. It is proposed to set up these boards during the 8th Plan period.

(d) yes, Sir.

Purchase of Canvas by Defence Ministry

7143. SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence has stopped the purchase of canvas from the NTC Mills at Kanpur;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the total deficit of the concerned mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b). No, Sir. During the last three years, the mills under NTC (UP) received orders for supply of canvas/cotton/duck cotton from Ministry of Defence through DGS&D and Ordnance Factories totalling 36.40 lakh metres.

(c) A quantity of 3.59 lakh metres is yet to be supplied by the mills under NTC (UP) against the orders received from Ministry of

Defence.

[*Translation*]

Hike in Price of Essential Commodities

7144. SHRIKALPNATH SONKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there has been a steep hike in the prices of sugar, rice, wheat, mustard oil and other food items in recent months; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to reduce the price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) There has been a mixed trend in the behaviour of prices of selected essential items during the last 20 weeks (between 25.11.1989 and 14.4.1990). The Wholesale Price Indices (WPI) of some commodities like rice, wheat, *jowar*, gram, onions, chillies, sugar, *khandsari* during this period exhibited a declining trend. The WPI of some other commodities like *arhar*, fish, groundnut oil, mustard oil, coconut oil and gingelly oil have shown a rising trend during this period.

(b) The Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in prices of essential commodities. Both long term and short term measures are being taken for the purpose. The measures taken by the Government broadly include steps to increase production of essential commodities like sugar, edible oils and tea etc. which are in short supply; effective procurement and buffer stocking operations of foodgrains; strengthening of Public Distribution System; monitoring of price and availability situation; strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures; and augmenting domestic

supplies through imports, wherever necessary, to check any abnormal rise in prices.

[*English*]

Construction of Godowns in Kerala by Central Warehousing Corporation

7145. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Warehousing Corporation is undertaking construction of godowns in the State of Kerala during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) At present Central Warehousing Corporation has no proposal to construct any warehouse in the State of Kerala, during the current year.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Increase in Number of Doctors in ESI Hospitals

7146. SHRI SARJU PRASAD SAROJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-items appearing in the Navbharat Times dated 7 April, 1990 captioned "paise to katate hain par uchit ilaj nahin";

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to increase the number of doctors in