

LAND REVENUE

*319. SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether, as a consequence of Land Revenue remissions by States, development of the said States has been retarded;

(b) whether the States which have remitted land revenue will be directed to make up the deficit by other taxes; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) To the extent that there is a shortfall in the resources of the state as a result of remissions in land revenue, the total resources available go down and the development of the States suffers;

(b) and (c). Land revenue is a State subject and, therefore, the question of the Centre issuing any directions in this regard does not arise.

DAL SCARCITY IN WEST BENGAL

*320. DR. RANEN SEN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Dal merchants of West Bengal are not taking delivery of Dal from the Railway wagons and sheds in West Bengal creating an artificial scarcity of Dal in the state;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Government have requested the Centre to vest in the State special powers under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) It has been reported by the Govern-

ment of West Bengal that consignments of pulses which arrived by rail in Calcutta are not being cleared by the parties, thus creating artificial shortage in the market.

(b) The State Government have suggested an amendment to the Essential Commodities Act as well as an amendment of the Rules under Indian Railways Act.

(c) The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

INTEREST ON PROVIDENT FUND ACCUMULATIONS

*321. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a final decision has been taken to allow investment of Provident Fund accumulations in other types of securities to enable the provident fund to earn more income to pay interest to the subscriber at a high rate; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI) : (a) and (b). During the current financial year Government has permitted the investment of upto 20% of the workers' provident fund accumulations in any Government Securities whether created and issued by the Central or any State Government; the balance has to be invested in specified Central Government securities. The position will be reviewed next year.

ELECTION PETITIONS

*322. SHRI GULAM MOHAMMED BAKSHI : Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state :

(a) the number of election petitions pending and the number of petitions disposed of by the election tribunals in Jammu and Kashmir upto the end of October, 1967;

(b) the number of undecided cases and the reasons for their remaining undisposed of so far; and

(c) how long it will take to dispose them of ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW (SHRI GOVINDA MENON) : (a) and (b). 57 election petitions filed in respect of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly were referred to Election Tribunals.

Only one of these petitions was disposed of by the Election Tribunal, Srinagar.

Another was dismissed for default by the Election Tribunal, Poonch, but an application for the restoration of the petition was filed.

On coming into force of the Jammu & Kashmir Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Act, 1967, on the 12th September, 1967, all the 56 petitions stood transferred to the Jammu & Kashmir High Court. No intimation has so far been received about the disposal of any of these petitions by the High Court.

(c) As these petitions are with the High Court, it is not possible to say how long it will take to dispose them off.

सुपर बाजार

*323. श्री रघुवीर सिंह शाली !: क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विभिन्न स्थानों पर खोले गये सुपर बाजार घाटे पर चल रहे हैं;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि सुपर बाजारों से बढ़ते हुए मूल्यों को रोकने में कोई सफलता नहीं मिली है बल्कि इन बाजारों में कुछ वस्तुएं मार्केट भावों से अधिक भावों पर बिक रही है;

(ग) यदि हां तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) इन बाजारों में उचित मूल्य पर वस्तुएं उपलब्ध कराने और इन बाजारों का प्रशासनिक व्यय कम करने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम०

एस० गुरुपादस्वामी) : (क) जी नहीं। अब तक खोले गये 48 सुपर बाजारों में से केवल 15 के घाटे में होने की सूचना मिली थी।

(ख) सुपर बाजारों का उद्देश्य आम तौर पर सक्रिय मूल्य नीति अपनाने का है, अर्थात् बाजार से कुछ कम मूल्यों पर वस्तुएं बेचना।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(घ) सहकारी समितियों को उपभोज्य वस्तुओं की सप्लाई वितरण के प्रथम स्थान के लिए स्वीकार्य मूल्य पर सुनिश्चित करने के लिए बहुत सी अत्यावश्यक उपभोज्य वस्तुओं के प्रमुख विनिर्माताओं के साथ बातचीत पूरी की जा चुकी है। सुपर बाजारों के प्रशासनिक व्यय को कम करने के लिये कर्मचारी—व्यवस्था की उचित प्रणाली (राशनल स्टॉफिंग पैटर्न) और प्रशासनिक व्यय के उचित मानक तैयार करने के लिये कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं।

SUPPORT PRICES FOR WHEAT AND GRAM

*324. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOEL :
SHRI P. N. SOLANKI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to increase the minimum support prices for wheat and gram for the year 1967-68 crops which are to be marketed during the 1968-69 season;

(b) if so, the extent of the increase; and

(c) the effect of the increase on the general price level ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In respect of wheat, the increase ranges from Rs. 2.25 to Rs. 2.50 per quintal while in respect of gram Rs. 3 per quintal.

(c) No effect is anticipated as the procurement prices and the market prices are higher than the minimum support prices.