

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) About 1.35 million tonnes of foodgrains have arrived during the period January—June 1973.

(b) to (d). Only such quantities of foodgrains including wheat as are necessary to maintain the public distribution system would be imported from the countries where stocks are available, at best possible terms. The foodgrains are likely to be imported from Canada, U.S.A. and Argentina. The value of imports would depend upon the level of prices at which purchases would be made.

Exploitation of Double Market and Price System in Wheat

***16. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'double market and price-system' introduced by the Government after the take over of the wholesale trade in wheat is being exploited to the detriment of the poor consumers; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to remove the hardships caused to the poorer section of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). Under the scheme of take-over of whole sale trade in wheat, apart from the public distribution system, licensed retailers are allowed to function subject to reasonable restrictions on stocks which they can store or deal in. Continuation of this is essential to ensure supply of grain to those who do not either want or are not able to draw supplies from the public distribution system or need to supplement the same. However, in order to prevent hardship to consumers, licensed retailers are required to abide by maximum retail prices

which have been announced in most of the States and which are generally in line with the issue price applicable to public distribution system.

Confirmation of Work-charged Staff of Arunachal Pradesh Circles of C.P.W.D.

***17 SHRI BHOLA MANJHI:** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether 100 permanent posts were created for the work-charged staff of Arunachal Pradesh Circles of C.P.W.D.;

(b) if so, whether the seniority lists for all categories of work-charged staff have been prepared and circulated, and

(c) whether all the eligible workers have been confirmed against these 100 permanent posts and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHOLA PASWAN SHASTRI): (a) A total of 100 permanent posts for both industrial and non-industrial categories were created on the 4th May, 1968

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) 37 workers have so far been confirmed. The remaining 63 workers could not be confirmed so far as certain formalities such as verification of character and antecedents and medical examination had not been completed. Efforts are being made to complete these formalities and confirm them as soon as possible.

Famine condition in Rajasthan and Central Relief therefor

***18 DR H P SHARMA:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the study by Shri