

Import of foodgrains

1213. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import foodgrains to meet the shortfall in production; and

(b) if so, the quantity and value of imports and the name of the country from which import will be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government keeps open the option to import the foodgrains as and when considered necessary.

A quantity of one million tonnes of wheat at a cost of about US \$ 103.78 million (FOB) will be imported from the USA with a view to replenishing the buffer stocks.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) has already imported some pulses and it is proposed that NAFED may import further approximately about 50,000 MT depending upon the availability and prices from various sources like Turkey, Australia, Thailand, Burma, etc.

STC has also contracted for 31,500 MT of various pulses for imports from different sources. Except for a quantity of 4000 MT which have to be shipped in May-June 1988 all the pulses have been received.

NAFED has also been granted licence for import of 2 lakh tonnes of maize on commercial basis and further action is in progress.

Maize is also proposed to be received on gift basis from the USA.

Allegations against the Manager of NCCF

1214. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious allegations of malpractices brought out in the March 1986 issue of Indian Observer against the Manager (Personnel and Administration) NCCF in appointing a large number of persons in NCCF between 1983 and 1985;

(b) if so, whether it is fact that the same officer is also alleged to be responsible for causing heavy losses to NCCF during 1978-79 in making indiscriminate purchases of pulses and packing materials without inviting tenders and prior approval of the competent authority;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the same officer owns a house in Chittaranjan Park (G-1318), New Delhi disproportionate to his known income; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome of the inquiry if any, made by Government in the matters and the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D L. BAITHA): (a) Government are aware of complaints of alleged malpractices and irregularities in certain appointments in the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation during 1983-85.

(b) to (d) During 1978-79 the NCCF at the instance of Department of Civil Supplies and Delhi Administration under took the supply of pulses in printed polythene packs of 1 kg. to the fair price shops in Delhi in order to arrest the rising trend of prices of pulses which were ruling very high then. While finalising the proposals, it was envisaged that some loss would be inevitable. NCCF intimated that since the matter pertained to 1978-79 and the old records

were not available, the charges against the officer could not be substantiated. The NCCF has also reported that the concerned Officer owns a house in Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi which he constructed before joining the NCCF and that so far no evidence of assets being disproportionate to his known sources of income has been found.

However, the NCCF has been asked to look into the matter afresh.

Development of Tourist Centres

1215. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the target of tourist centres proposed to be developed during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the number of centres developed so far, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRI-

DHAR GOMANGO): (a) The Central Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to States for development of tourism infrastructure at tourist centres on the basis of specific proposals received from the state Governments. During the 7th Five Year Plan, the Ministry proposes to undertake development of infrastructure at 100 tourist centres in the country. However, the Ministry will consider financial assistance for these centres subject to formulation of projects by the State Governments. potential of the place, viability of the projects existing and projected tourist traffic, overall merits of the proposals, availability of funds and *inter-se* priorities.

(b) The number of centres for which financial assistance has been released by the Ministry of Tourism for provision of tourist facilities during the first three years of the 7th Plan Statewise, is given in the attached statement.

Statement

S. No.	Name of State	No. of centres for which funds released during 7th Five year Plan
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	—
2	Arunachal Pradesh	—
3	Assam	3
4	Bihar	7
5	Goa	2
6	Gujarat	10
7	Haryana	8
8	Himachal Pradesh	6
9	Jammu & Kashmir	12
10	Kerala	18
11	Karnataka	13
12	Madhya Pradesh	10
13	Maharashtra	7