

चाँतीस हाथी, एक स्वतः पूर्ण दल के रूप में दिल्ली भेजे थे। क्योंकि भारत सरकार द्वारा कोई भी धनराशि खर्च नहीं की गई थी, दिल्ली में उनके द्वारा हाथियों को रखने का प्रश्न नहीं उठता। केरल राज्य सरकार ने दिल्ली में उनके ठहरने के लिए सभी सुविधाएं प्रदान की थीं।

Self-sufficiency in foodgrains

2797. SHRI DHULESHWAR
MEENA:

SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has not yet achieved self-sufficiency in foodgrains;

(b) if so, the extent of their shortfall and how it is proposed to be met;

(c) the quantity and value of foodgrains imported during the last three years, year-wise and that to be imported during the current year; and

(d) the particular measures proposed to be taken to ensure an early self-sufficiency in foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) Under normal weather conditions, our country is self-sufficient in foodgrains.

(c) The quantity and value of foodgrains imported during the last three years are given below:—

Year	Country	Commodities contracted	F.O.B. Value
		Wheat (million tonnes)	(in million)
1981-82	(i) U.S.A.	1.515	US \$ 262.066
	(ii) Australia	0.715	Aus \$ 118.600
1982-83	U.S.A.	3.950	US \$ 654.778

During 1980-81 and 1981-82, Bangladesh returned respectively 48,000 tonnes of wheat and 78,000 tonnes of rice which they had taken on loan earlier.

At present there is no proposal with the Government to go in for further import of wheat.

(d) High priority has been accorded to the programmes for increasing the production of foodgrains during the Sixth Five Year Plan. The important elements of the strategy adopted for increasing the production of different foodgrains crops are:

(i) Expansion of area under assured irrigation and full utilisation in gross cropped area, mainly through multiple cropping; of available irrigation potential; (ii)

(iii) Expansion of area under the high yielding varieties programme; (iv) Optimum use of fertilisers, both organic and inorganic; (v) Adequate plant protection measures to reduce crop losses due to pest and disease attacks; (vi) Greater emphasis on soil and water conservation measures and improved dryland farming practices; (vii) Promotion of research and its application on a wider scale; (viii) Farmers' training and education through re-organised and strengthened extension network; (ix) assuring remunerative prices to the growers for their produce, and, (x) Development of infrastructure of credit, marketing and distribution system for the supply of inputs and services.