

(a) whether Government propose to continue the National Rural Employment Scheme in different States during the year 1982-83;

(b) if so, what is the amount proposed to be allocated to Orissa under the scheme during the year; and

(c) what are the details of the programme proposed to be undertaken in Orissa during the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) The National Rural Employment Programme now forms part of the Sixth Five Year Plan. As such, this would continue throughout the plan period.

(b) Orissa has been allocated a total amount of Rs. 8.20 crores during the year 1981-82.

This also includes the value of 17,350 MTs of foodgrains allocated to Orissa under the programme during the current year.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Seminar on World Food Programme

297. SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a seminar of World Food Programme was held in New Delhi in December, 1981 and matters connected with the use of food aid and of World Food Programme assistance were discussed;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the amount of aid likely to be provided to India by the World Food Programme for development projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The WFP Seminar was entirely an internal Regional Seminar and Workshop of the World Food Programme. It brought together 41 WFP officials serving in Asia and the Pacific Region as well as from its Headquarters at Rome.

(c) According to information received, the amount of food aid to be provided by the W.F.P. for development projects to India was not discussed at the Seminar.

#### Import of wheat and rice from foreign countries

298. SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice and wheat Government propose to import during the year 1982-83;

(b) how much wheat has been imported during the year 1981 upto 31st December, 1981; and

(c) what is the price paid per quintal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) There is no proposal at present to import rice and wheat during the year 1982-83.

(b) Against contracts for import of 15.15 lakh tonnes of wheat from U.S.A. and 7.50 lakh tonnes from Australia entered into during the year 1981, a quantity of 6.91 lakh tonnes of U.S. wheat was discharged upto 31-12-81.

(c) The average estimated F.O.B. price of imported wheat comes to US dollars 17.298 per quintal in case of US wheat and Australian dollars 15.813 per quintal in case of wheat from Australia.