

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 76 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th March, 1976 and state :

(a) whether Government have since examined the proposal for the setting up of a Central Land Acquisition Authority; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL) : (a) and (b) The suggestion made by the Gujarat Government is to be examined in the context of more extensive amendments to the Land Acquisition Act. This is being done in consultation with the State Governments. It is considered that a decision on an isolated suggestion may not be advisable.

Capacity for storing of foodgrains

116. SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY :

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

(a) what is the capacity of the Food Corporation of India for storing foodgrains;

(b) whether Government have made any arrangements for storing foodgrains over and above the existing capacity; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) The capacity available with the Food Corporation for storage of foodgrains is about 1 million tonnes, both owned and hired.

(b) and (c) Various steps have been taken to meet the storage requirements of foodgrains. The existing storage capacity is being put to optimum utilization by raising height of stacks, disposal of obsolete and unserviceable stores etc. Additional capacity is being created through hiring from various sources and undertaking construction including emergency construction of CAP storage. 4—212RSS/76

Targets for production of wheat and rice

117. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) what were the targets fixed by the various State Governments and the Central Government for production of wheat and rice during the year 1975-76 and what are the names of States which have achieved the targets; and

(b) what are the reasons for which targets have not been achieved by the other States ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL) : (a) and (b) Targets of production are generally fixed for foodgrains as a whole and not for individual crops like wheat and rice. Final estimates of production of wheat and rice for 1975-76 have not yet become available from all the States.

Ergot contamination of Indian wheat

118. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : SHRI MIMMAT SINH : SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY : DR. V. B. SINGH :

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

(a) whether Government are aware that after the ergot contamination of wheat imported from the United States, a Research Officer of the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, warned against the possibility of the menace spreading to Indian wheat; and

(b) if so, what steps have so far been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to save the Indian wheat from ergot contamination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b) On detection of ergot in the imported wheat in 1974, instructions were issued to the Food Corporation of India and recipient States to separate ergot kernels. The ergot grain was issued to pharmaceutical for manufacture of pharmaceuticals and such ergot grains

not acceptable to the pharmaceutical concerns was destroyed so as to avoid its spread to Indian wheat.

Introduction of grading system in Universities

119. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the Universities have decided to introduce a grading system on a seven point scale for marking examination papers;

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

(c) what are the names of the Universities which have agreed to introduce this system ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, the following 27 Universities, including institutions deemed to be Universities, have decided to introduce the system of grading in certain examinations :—

1. Agra University.
2. Aligarh Muslim University.
3. Andhra University.
4. Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University.
5. Banaras Hindu University.
6. Bombay University.
7. Calicut University.
8. G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology.
9. Gujarat University.
10. Jawaharlal Nehru University.
11. Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University.
12. Tadavpur University.
13. Madras University.
14. Madurai University.
15. Meerut University.
16. M. S. University of Baroda.
17. Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology.

18. Panjab University.

19. Punjab Agricultural University.

20. Poona University.

21. Sardar Patel University.

22. Saugar University.

23. Udaipur University.

24. Utkal University.

25. Birla Institute of Science and Technology, Pillani.

26. Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad.

27. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

The objectives of the 8W plan are to introduce a more uniform, relative and reliable means of evaluation, to ensure greater comparability among disciplines and within the disciplines, to bring about greater internal coherence in the choice by students of different subjects or papers in keeping with their aptitudes and ability, and to facilitate the movement of students from one university to another.

Deaths in Rajasthan due to contaminated Maize

120. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that contaminated maize has taken a toll of many Bhil lives in various parts of Rajasthan as per the findings of a joint study of I.C.A.R. and I.C.M.R. which recently surveyed the maize eating areas of Udaipur, Durgapur and Banswara Districts of Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the steps taken by Government to remedy the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE) :

(a) and (b) Towards the end of 1974 and early 1975 parts of Rajasthan particularly the Banswara district experienced an outbreak of a disease characterised by jaundice, ascites (accumulation of fluid in the abdomen) oedema of the lower limbs and a high rate of mortality. It is reported that there were 126 cases with 15 deaths. Majority of the cases involved tribal families residing on the outskirts of villages. At the request