

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 11 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 AGRICULTURAL 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 ergoty kernels. The ergoty grain was issued to pharmaceutical for manufacture of pharmaceuticals and such ergoty grains