

(a) the total procurement of rice and wheat since the Proclamation of Emergency in June, 1975; and

(b) the rates at which these have been procured ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) As per information available till the 20th January 1976, a quantity of 34.54 lakh tonnes of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) and 6.24 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured since the proclamation of Emergency in June 1975.

(b) Rice has been procured at the procurement prices fixed by the State Governments ranging between Rs. 104/- and Rs. 175.50 per quintal during 1974-75 season and at Rs. 117/- to Rs. 181/- per quintal during 1975-76 season. Paddy has been procured at the procurement prices ranging between Rs. 74/- and Rs. 110/- per quintal during 1974-75 and 1975-76 seasons.

Wheat has been procured at Rs. 105/- per quintal.

Irrigation Projects

478. SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of irrigation projects in the country, the Central Government have listed as top priority;

(b) the stages of the progress so far made about those irrigation projects which are under construction; and

(c) by when they are likely to be completed with particular reference to the projects in Tripura ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI K. N. SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Fifth Plan programme envisages creation of an additional irrigation potential of 6.2 m.ha. from major and medium irrigation schemes. Out of this target, 5.5 m.ha. is to come from 76 major and 141 medium on-going schemes, of which about 4.5 m.ha. has to be created from 33 major schemes which are in advanced stage of construction. Priority is, therefore, being given to these projects in the allocation of funds in the Annual Plans

of the States. Most of these projects would be substantially completed by the end of the Fifth Plan.

No major/medium irrigation scheme has so far been taken up in Tripura.

Manipulations in weight of foodgrains by Bunge Corporation of U.S.A.

479. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bunge Corporation of U.S.A. while sending foodgrains to India had manipulated in weight;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantity of foodgrains received short by manipulations in weight;

(c) how far this had affected the total quantity of food which was imported from U.S.A.;

(d) whether Government have claimed compensation from U.S.A. on that account; and

(e) the details of protest, if any, Government have lodged in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) to (e) It is learnt from Press reports that a lower level employed of M/s Bunge Corporation, New York, had deposed that the Corporation was resorting to short-weighments of foodgrain ships bound for India and African countries from their elevator at Destrehan. The Embassy of India, Washington, who are responsible for all foodgrain purchases from the USA on behalf of the Government of India, has been asked to ascertain the position. The further action to be taken could be examined in due course.

Vacation of official accommodation by Government Employees

480. SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI :
SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SAN-
YAL :

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 63 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th January, 1976 and state :