

Bank of India with regard to the poor procurement of foodgrains in the current Rabi Season; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. In the annual report of the Reserve Bank of India for the year 1973-74 it has been stated that the procurement of wheat till the end of June 1974 and also the market arrivals of wheat were lower than during the corresponding period of the last year. The position as stated in the report is correct. The procurement of wheat during the current year and the previous season cannot be compared, as whole during the current year and the market, last year was procured, this year, only 50 per cent of the purchases made by the wholesalers at mandi points in surplus States were procured. Lesser procurement this year is also on account of lower market arrivals, as a result of short-fall in production and tendency to hoard at various levels due to prevailing high prices.

Production of Vanaspati by Ganesh Flour Mill, Delhi

310. SHRI SHYAM LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the installed capacity of Ganesh Flour Mill in Delhi for the production of vanaspati and to what extent it has been utilised during the last six months;

(b) what are the reasons for not utilising the full installed capacity of the mill; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure the full utilisation of the mill capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Installed capacity.—50 tonnes per day.

Extent utilized during the last 6 months.—44 per cent of the average.

(b) Non-availability of raw oils except at uneconomical prices. However, the extent of utilisation of capacity by this factory was substantially higher than the average utilisation in the North zone or by the industry as a whole.

(c) With the onset of the new groundnut season, the production of vanaspati in this factory, as in other units of the industry, is already showing appreciable improvement. Steps are also being taken to augment raw oil supplies further through imports and fuller utilisation of available resources like cottonseed and rice bran.

Financial Assistance for Setting up of Gobar Gas Plants

311. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently issued any directions to the banks to finance for the setting up of Gobar Gas Plants in the country; and

(b) if so, the extent of credit proposed to be made available for the purpose and the target fixed for setting up a net work of such plants?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): (a) The Nationalised banks have on their own initiative taken steps for advancing loans to the farmers for setting up of Gobar Gas Plants.

(b) The amount of loan will vary from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 4,000 depending upon the size of the plant. It is targetted to set up 1,00,000 Gobar Gas Plants in the country during the Fifth Plan period.