

Statement

(a) Quantity of foodgrains imported during 1971, 1972 and upto October 1973.

Year	(Quantity in lakh tonnes)
1971	20.54
1972	4.46
1973 (up to Oct. 73)	23.84

(b) Amount and nature of foreign exchange spent for foodgrains imported.

Year	In lakh dollars	In lakh pounds
1971	143.62	61.73
1972	—	22.56
1973	2083.51 (approx.)	—

(c) Programme of import of foodgrains if any during the year 1974 would depend on the food situation in general and prospects of Kharif procurement and Rabi crops.

Grading system for assessment of candidates in examination

*234. SHRI G. R. PATIL :
SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHA-
DER :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.G.C. in its report has indicated that higher marks in public examinations are no sure sign of academic superiority;

(b) whether the U.G.C. has recommended a "grading system" for the assessment of the candidates; and

(c) if so, the decision of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The University Grants Commission has circulated to all the

Universities and Colleges in the country a 'Plan of Action' for examination reform for implementation. The Plan inter-alia contains the following recommendations:

"The performance of students cannot be measured so accurately and so unambiguously as to be recorded in marks and since the standards of judgement for various subjects are also different, students must be awarded grades and not marks at the examinations and assessments."

The Commission has requested the various Universities to submit proposals for assistance on programmes for question bank development, promotion of internal assessment, and organising of workshops and seminars. The Commission has also selected 12 Universities for implementing the examination reform programmes in close collaboration with the U.G.C. Implementation Committee on Examination Reform.

The Government generally agrees with the recommendations made in the 'Plan of Action'.

Tuti-Corin Port

*235. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHL-DEEN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) by when the expansion work at Tuti-Corin Port in Tamil Nadu is likely to be completed;

(b) whether the work is going on as per schedule; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMALAPATHI TRIPATHI): (a) Presumably this relates to the Tuticorin Harbour Project. The project is now likely to be completed by March, 1975.

(b) & (c) The Project suffered a setback as the contractors for the major works ran into financial difficulties in execution of the contract. These have been sorted out and the contractors are now making efforts to keep up to the

present schedule of completion by March, 1975 and the work is gaining momentum.

†Shortage of Chemical Fertilizer

*27. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of the 22nd September, 1973 to the effect that the country is facing an acute shortage of chemical fertilisers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) There is some constraint in the availability of fertilisers in the country for Rabi 73-74. This is because of shortfalls in domestic production and the inadequate availability of fertilisers in the world market. The Government of India has no information about the quantities of fertilisers purchased by China and Russia. In order to improve the availability position, the following steps have been taken:—

(1) Efforts are being made to maximise the capacity utilisation of the domestic fertiliser factories.

(2) A coordinated supply plan has been drawn up in the Zonal Conferences after discussions with the representatives of the State Governments and domestic manufacturers. Orders under the Essential Commodities Act have been issued thereafter, making it legally obligatory for the domestic manufacturers to supply the quantities of fertilisers committed by them to each State at the Conferences.

†Transferred from the 12th November, 1973

(3) The States have been advised to prepare a careful inventory of the stocks available in the godowns both of the cooperative and retail dealers and review it frequently in order to ensure timely and equitable distribution of the available fertilisers.

(4) The fertiliser manufacturers have been requested to channel as big a share of their output as possible through cooperative organisations and other public agencies in order to minimise the chance of mal-practices.

(5) Through periodic reviews at a very high level a careful watch is being kept on the availability of wagons for rail movement in order to ensure that adequate rail transport is available for movement of imported and domestic fertilizer.

(6) Steps are also being taken to import maximum possible quantities and to expedite shipments of contracted quantities.

Agricultural Farm in Trivandrum

*236. SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the proposal of the Kerala Government to set up a third Agricultural Farm in Trivandrum District;

(b) if so, whether Kerala Government have sent the proposal to the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A team of experts appointed by the Kerala Government have submitted a report to that Government, regarding the location of the Third Collective Farm in the State. The details