

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) To make the slogan "Land to the tillers" a reality the State Governments have taken various measures to safeguard the interests of the tillers of the soil. The abolition of intermediary rights brought 20 million tenants into direct contact with the State; more than 5.7 million hectares of privately owned forest land, grazing land, culturable waste land etc. have been distributed among eligible categories of persons. Tenancy laws of almost all the States provide for the protection of tenants from arbitrary eviction. Resumption by landlords is restricted and the time allowed for resumptions is over in most of the States. Some State laws provide for the regulation of voluntary surrender of land by tenants with a view to curbing disguised eviction. The optional right to purchase non-resumable land held by tenants has been provided in the laws of a number of States. Besides, some States have taken steps for compulsory transfer of non-resumable land to the tenants. Under this Scheme about 3 million tenants and sharecroppers have acquired ownership rights in various States.

Steps are being taken to expedite the distribution of culturable waste land held by Government. Under the ceiling laws 1.2 million acres of surplus land have already been distributed. The revised ceiling laws will lower the level of willing and reduce the number of exemptions thus making more surplus area available for distribution among landless persons.

The State Governments have recently been advised to take legislative measures for plugging the gaps and weaknesses in the existing tenancy laws to ensure complete security of tenure and conferment of ownership rights on cultivating tenants and sharecroppers according to a time-bound programme.

CHARGE AGAINST OFFICIALS OF FCI

605. SHRI SAN AT KUMAR RAHA:
DR. Z. A. AHMAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has advised action against officials of Food Corporation of India whose conduct has been a subject of inquiry; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) No, Sir. The investigation is in progress.

(b) Does not arise.

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

606. SHRI G. R. PAUL:
SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to import wheat;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the measures contemplated to ensure unhampered arrival of wheat in the "mandis"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) A decision was taken to import 2 million tonnes of wheat/milo from abroad to tide over the short supply situation. Bulk of the quantity will be received by the end of June, 73.

(c) A statement showing the measures taken is attached.

Statement

The Government have issued the Inter-Zonal wheat and Wheat Products (Movement Control) Order, 1973 creating single State Zones in respect of movement of wheat. This has checked the flow of wheat from producing areas to deficit areas thus increasing the market arrivals in mandis of the producing States.

(2) Some of the State Governments have imposed restrictions on the movement of wheat from surplus areas in the State to others.

(3) In the context of take-over of wholesale trade, all the wheat producing States have issued Orders imposing restrictions on the purchase, storage and sale by retailers. In certain States, restrictions have also been imposed on the holding of wheat by the producers and its sale. Restrictions have also been imposed in the important States on the limits of purchase and holding by consumers. This elimination of wholesalers from the wheat trade and other regulatory measures, have increased the market arrivals of wheat.

(4) For current rabi season, a higher procurement price of Rs. 82 per quintal has been fixed for certain specified varieties of superior wheat in different States. This will also attract more stocks of superior varieties for sale to the mandis.

(5) A large number of purchase centres have been opened in the wheat producing States so that the cultivator does not have to cover long distance for marketing his wheat and get procurement price fixed.

(6) This year, payment procedure has further been streamlined and arrangements have been made to make cash payments on the spot in some of the States. In others, prompt issue of cheques at the spot has been ensured.

MONTHLY QUOTA OF WHEAT TO KERALA

607. SHRI G. GOPINATHAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

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(a) the monthly requirements of wheat in Kerala; and

(b) the quantity of wheat supplied to Kerala during each of the months from May 1972 to March, 1973 for distribution through the public distribution system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The monthly demands of wheat during each of the months from May, 1972 to March, 1973, the quantities allotted during these months and the quantity of wheat supplied to Kerala during the said period for distribution through the public distribution system are furnished below:—

(In '000 tonnes)			
Month	Require- ments	Allot- ments	Supplies
May, 72	12.0	12.0	8.3
June, 72	12.0	12.0	11.2
July, 72	12.0	12.0	10.0
August, 72	15.0	15.0	11.7
September, 72	18.0	15.0	15.3
October, 72	20.0	15.0	12.7
November, 72	18.0	18.0	13.1
December, 72	18.0	8.0	7.3
January, 73	20.0	7.0	8.0
February, 73	18.0	7.0	6.6
March, 73	15.0	7.0	6.4

HALDIA PORT

608. SHRI SARDAR AM J AD ALI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the absence of official sanction of the Haldia as a Subsidiary port to Calcutta has been causing inconvenience for setting up of customs office and telephone exchanges in Haldia; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to remove these difficulties?