

About 580 tonnes of foodgrains as indicated below are reported to have been damaged between June to September 1969 out of the stocks held by the Food Corporation of India and the State Governments :

	Tonnes
Food Corporation of India	525.00
Rajasthan	1.50
West Bengal	30.81
Uttar Pradesh	22.64
TOTAL .	679.95

The loss in all cases was not, however, due to unsatisfactory storage facilities. Most of the damage occurred at the time of heavy rush of foodgrains to the godowns and when, at some places, substandard storage arrangements had to be resorted to deal with the large quantities handled. Storage facilities are being supplemented through construction of new godowns and maintenance of stocks in healthy condition is ensured through the employment of technically qualified staff and regular periodical inspections.

AVAILABILITY OF DALDA

323. SHRI J. S. TILAK : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Dalda very often goes underground with the result that it becomes unavailable to the needy consumers; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make arrangement for selling it through agencies like fair-price shops and co-operative societies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) Reports of inadequate supplies of vanaspati occasionally appear in the press, but generally there is no dearth of supplies.

(b) Although there is no control on distribution of vanaspati, the Industry has undertaken to effect supplies to wholesale consumer cooperatives on a priority basis and this undertaking has been brought to the notice of the State Governments, who have also been advised

to ensure that supplies are made available to the cooperative stores to the maximum extent possible.

CADRES TO MAN VARIOUS COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

324. DR. SALIG RAM :
SHRI KRISHAN KANT :
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :

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

(a) whether Government have recently suggested to the States to set up Cadres to man various cooperative societies; and

(b) whether Government propose to give any assistance to States in this respect ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI D. ERING) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are no special schemes of central assistance to States for this purpose; in the IV Plan, the scheme of setting up common cadres for cooperatives is part of the State sector of the plan for which Central assistance is given under the block loan/grant system.

STUDY OF THE DROUGHT AFFECTED AREAS

325. SHRI M. K. MOHTA :
SARDAR HARCHARAN
SINGH DUGAL :
SARDAR NARINDER SINGH
BRAR :
SARDAR GURCHARAN
SINGH TOHRA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently undertaken a study of the drought affected areas in some States;

(b) if so, the names of the States where such study was undertaken and whether the study has been completed;

(c) the result thereof;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken as a result of the study undertaken; and