

SETTING UP OF RICE MILLS BY F.C.I.

946. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 332 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th July, 1968 and state:

(a) the progress made so far in the matter of setting up of 24 rice mills in different parts of the country by the Food Corporation of India; and

(b) the location of each mill set up so far and the capacity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) Two mills have been set up so far. The third mill is expected to be commissioned by the end of March, 1969.

(b) The capacity of each of the units to be established by the Corporation is 4 tonne per hour. The two units set up so far are at Thanjavur and Mannargudi in Tamil Nadu. The third mill is being established at Sembanarkoil in Tamil Nadu.

RELIEF TO FARMERS

947. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take steps for giving relief to the farmers in view of the fact that the price of fertilisers and the rates of water for irrigation purposes are rising and the prices of food-grains are constantly falling; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) No, Sir. But a comprehensive programme of extending credit facilities to farmers is included in the IV Plan.

(b) Does not arise.

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

948. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of food-grains Government propose to import from foreign countries during the next three years, year-wise;

(b) whether any agreement is being negotiated with any foreign countries in this connection; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) It is proposed to import 5.2 million tonnes of foodgrains during 1969-70. Estimates of imports beyond 1969-70 have not yet been made.

(b) No agreements are being negotiated with any country for long term import of foodgrains.

(c) Does not arise.

EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUND DUE FROM FACTORY OWNERS

949. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of employees provident fund due from factory owners as on the 31st December, 1968 and the names of the factories from which it was due;

(b) the names and addresses of the factory owners from whom more than one lakh rupees under this head were due on the 31st March 1968; and

(c) the reasons for not recovering this amount from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) The Employees Provident Fund Organisation has reported that as on 31st December, 1968, about Rs. 11.75 crores were due as accumulated arrears from the employers of unexempted establishments and that particulars of all the defaulting establishments are not readily available with it.

(b) A statement is attached. [See Appendix LXVII, Annexure No. 59].

(c) The powers to recover dues as arrears of land revenue have been vested in the State Governments. Prosecution of employers under section 14 of the Employees' Provident Funds Act also requires the previous sanction of the State Governments. Legal action by way of prosecution and/or recovery proceedings has been