

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB SHINDE) : (a) Proposals for the setting up of modern rice mills during the Fourth Plan are under consideration and have not yet been finalised.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

RELEASE OF SUGAR QUOTAS

878. SHRI M. ASAD MADANI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have ordered release from factories of free-sale quotas of sugar from July, 23;

(b) if so, what is the total quantity of free-sale and levy sugar ordered to be released; and

(c) what is the rate fixed for the free-sale quotas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The releases during July-August were as follows :—

Free-sale sugar quota—66,000 tonnes.

Levy sugar quota—1,00,000 tonnes.

In addition, 18,000 tonnes have been issued as free-sale sugar to meet festival demand. The validity of this issue expires on the 4th September.

(c) Under the policy of partial decontrol of sugar, the factories are permitted to sell the free-sale sugar at market prices and therefore no rate has been fixed for free-sale quotas.

TARAI DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

879. SHRI M. ASAD MADANI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tarai Development Corporation has come into being;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the Corporation; and

(c) how much loan the World Bank has advanced for this Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB SHINDE) : (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter is still under consideration of the World Bank.

WHEAT STOCKS IN ROTTEN CONDITION

880. SHRI M. ASAD MADANI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fourteen wagons of wheat in a rotten and stinking condition had arrived recently at Tamuria Station on North Eastern Railway in Bihar; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) About 2260 bags of imported wheat booked from New Kandla in 12 open wagons were received at Tamuria Station by the Bihar State Government. These were affected by rain in rail transit as the tarpaulins got dislocated or torn en route. Salvaging operations were undertaken immediately. A joint assessment of the extent of damage by the officers of the Bihar State Government and the Railways is in progress.

PRICE OF FERTILIZERS

881. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of Fertilizers has increased recently;

(b) if so, the percentage thereof and the reasons for the same;