

(b) what would be the likely shortage of rice in the country after the Rabi Crop season; and

(c) the sources from which it is likely to be procured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) Firm estimates of area and production of summer rice crop sown during the current rabi season would become available only after the close of the Agricultural Year i.e., some time in July-August, 1969.

(b) and (c) The demand for foodgrains like that for other commodities is elastic. One type of foodgrain can also be substituted by another to a certain extent. It is, therefore, difficult to assess their requirements and shortage of rice in the country after the current rabi crop season. Arrangements have, however, been made to import rice from Burma, Egypt, Thailand and Australia.

DISTRIBUTION OF FERTILIZERS IN DELHI

1737. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the Co-operative Societies who have been entrusted with the job of distribution of fertilisers in Delhi have been indulging in malpractices and complaints have been received in this regard;

(b) if so, the nature of the complaints received; and

(c) whether any action has been taken by Government to probe into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) As reported by Delhi Administration complaints of malpractices in distri-

bution of fertilizers have been received against some cooperatives.

(b) Non-maintenance of correct accounts, falsification of accounts in some cases; recording of bogus sales; sale of fertiliser to unauthorised persons outside Delhi area.

(c) The matter is now under enquiry by Sub-divisional Magistrate, Narela after preliminary enquiry by an officer of the Cooperation Department of Delhi Administration.

AREA UNDER DRY FARMING

1738. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the acreage which can be brought under dry farming in the country;

(b) if so, what progress has been made in this regard during 1967 and 1968; and

(c) to what extent it has helped in augmenting the food production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) The net sown area in 1960-61 was 1,33,154 thousand hectares and that in 1965-66 was 1,35,829 thousand hectares, whereas the figures for net irrigated areas were 24,634 thousand hectares in 1960-61 and 26,441 thousand hectares in 1965-66. Efforts have been directed towards putting culturable wastelands to plough, wherever it is feasible, with the result that area under cultivable wasteland has decreased from 19 million hectares in 1960-61 to 17 million hectares in 1965-66. Water development has also taken place so that, though there is a net decrease in the area of culturable wastelands over a period of five years from 60-61 to 65-66 the net area under dry farming has increased only slightly to the extent

of 865 thousand hectares. Figures for the area for dry farming in 1960-61 and 1965-66 are 109.30 million hectares and 108.52 million hectares respectively.

The Government appointed a Wasteland Survey Committee in 1959 to make an assessment of the acreage that can be brought under cultivation. The scope of the survey was restricted to finding blocks of wastelands of 100 hectares and above. Some 4.8 lakh hectares of wastelands were thus located in 13 States. The second survey for locating wastelands in blocks of 1 less than 100 hectares has been taken up under a Centrally sponsored scheme. This work is continuing and so far 22.8 lakh hectares have been located. The State Governments are allotting these lands to eligible farmers for increasing the area under cultivation. A small portion of these areas comes within the command of irrigation projects and there may be other areas where irrigation facilities may be forthcoming through minor irrigation works. Major portion of the areas, however, goes to increase the acreage under dry farming.

(c) On a rough estimate additional production of food-crops from such areas would be at the rate of 1/3 ton per acre per annum.

MICROWAVE FOR TRANSMISSION OF T.V. PROGRAMMES

1739. SHRI KRISHAN KANT:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether microwave net work can be utilised for transmission of T.V. programmes; and

(b) what steps have been taken to utilise microwave net work in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DE-

PARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) Microwave systems are being engineered in a way so as to be adaptable for addition of television relay channels at a subsequent date.

NETAJINAGAR SINDHI COLONY AT NAMNER, AGRA

1740. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Netajinagar Sindhi Colony at Namner, Agra is maintained by the Central Government;

(b) if so, whether it has been provided with tin roofs in the excessive heat and cold of Agra; and

(c) whether any representation has been received that infantile mortality rate is extremely high in that colony due to their being exposed to excessive heat and cold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) and (b) Netajinagar Sindhi Colony at Namner, Agra, consisted of 'kachha' quarters with tin roofs, constructed in 1948-49 to provide temporary accommodation to the Displaced Persons from West Pakistan. In response to requests made by the Displaced Person allottees/occupants, they were allowed to stay on in these quarters, all of which, save 4 quarters, were subsequently sold to them. The Central Government are not maintaining this Colony.

(c) No such representation has been received.

PROCUREMENT TARGETS FOR RABI SEASON

1741. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed, State-wise, for procurement of different foodgrains during the coming Rabi season; and