

(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 food-grains 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