

Minimum support prices of Kharif Coarse cereals for 1967-68

	Rs. per quintal
Jowar	42.00*
Bajra	
Maize	
Ragi	

*for all over the country.

PRODUCTION OF CASH CROPS

451. SHRI G. R. PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all Centrally sponsored schemes introduced last year for stepping up production of cash crops have not been successful;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken by Government for the successful implementation of those schemes during this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) In 1966-67 Centrally sponsored scheme covered 2.65 lakh acres of cotton 60.55 acres of nuclear and 832.00 acres of foundation seeds; 1.78 lakh acres of groundnut; and 1281 acres of V.F.C. tobacco. The jute programme of free supply of urea for foliar spray covered 2.90 lakh acres. It would be over simplification to say that these schemes have not been successful. The jute scheme introducing foliar spray of urea over large areas was fairly successful. So was nuclear and foundation cotton seed production.

(b) Keeping in view the large acreage under cotton or groundnut in the whole country the Centrally sponsored schemes are at best, intensive schemes over limited areas, supplementing the cotton or groundnut or jute scheme in the State Plan. The

tobacco scheme also was of a limited application, mainly for export types. The schemes were sanctioned rather late and being new schemes it takes time to set up the necessary organisation. The very unfavourable weather conditions in 1966-67 seriously affected the operation of these schemes.

(c) The State Governments were authorise well before commencement of the season to go ahead with the implementation of the programmes for 1967-68. It has been possible to, make special allocation of fertiliser earmarked for these schemes. The State Governments have made arrangements, as far as possible for other inputs, such as pesticides, seeds, etc.

MILK PROCUREMENT IN DELHI

452. SHRI RAM CHANDER: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of ban on Khoya in Delhi/New Delhi, imposed recently, the procurement position of milk has improved;

(b) if so, to what extent; and how far the procurement prices have come down; and

(c) whether it will be possible for Delhi Milk Scheme to bring down the prices of milk/ghee in view of this improved position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) Yes Sir

(b) It is estimated that additional 25,000 litres of milk per day is being procured by Delhi Milk Scheme. But for this order, it is considered, some contractors would have given up supply, and very serious shortfall would have occurred: There has been no reduction in procurement price of milk. Rise in milk price, which is a normal feature during summer, was, however, checked for some time. But the situation has not stabilised yet as the order has come into operation very shortly.

(c) It is too early to venture any opinion.

SUPPLY OF COTTON AND RICE FROM U.A.R.

453. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of the United Arab Republic has decided to supply cotton and rice to India in 1967-68; and

(b) if so, the quantity of cotton and rice expected to be supplied by the United Arab Republic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the period from the 1st March, 1967 to the 30th June, 1968, U.A.R. has agreed to supply to India cotton worth Rs. 414 million and rice worth Rs. 108 million. The agreement does not specify the quantities.

FOODGRAIN IMPORTS AGAINST HARD CURRENCY

454. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal under the consideration of Government for exploring the possibilities of foodgrain imports against hard currency in order to meet the

demands of the drought-affected States;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the names of the countries from which the foodgrains are expected to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) to (c) The needs of the drought affected States are met out of the general pool of foodgrain supplies available to the Government of India from imports and internal procurement. There are arrangements in hand for import during 1967 of the following quantities of foodgrains from abroad against payment in free foreign exchange:

Foodgrain	Name of the country	Quantity (in '000 M. Tons)
WHEAT	Australia	232.5
	Canada	50.0
	U. S. A.	225.6
RICE	Burma	215.0
	Cambodia	10.0
	Spain	30.0
	Thailand	100.0
	U.S.A.	3.0
	U.A.R.	40.0
	Guyana	5.0
	Nepal	4.1

Proposals for purchase of another 1.33 lakh tonnes of rice against payment in free foreign exchange are also under consideration.

FERTILISER REQUIREMENTS

455. SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the requirement of fertiliser in the country in the year 1966-67;

(b) what was the quantity available for utilisation during that period; and

(c) what was the quantity of fertiliser imported from abroad out of