

AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total acreage of land which is at present under cultivation in Bihar State;

(b) the total cultivable land which is lying uncultivated for the last several years in Bihar; and

(c) whether the matter of bringing this uncultivated land under cultivation has been taken up with the Government of Bihar in the context of the food deficit in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) An area of 242 lakh acres is under cultivation in Bihar State.

(b) An area of approximately 38 lakh acres of cultivable land is reported to be lying unutilised.

(c) The question of bringing the uncultivated land under cultivation has been constantly engaging the attention of Government and suitable schemes have been included in the State Plan.

BIHAR'S DEMAND FOR WHEAT, JOWAR ETC.

357. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Wheat, Jowar, Bajra, Milo and Sugar demanded each month during this year by the Government of Bihar from the Centre;

(b) the quantity of the above allotted each month to Bihar and the quantity actually lifted; and

(c) the quantity still required to feed the scarcity hit areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) No regular monthly demands were placed for foodgrains up to May, though the monthly requirements were variously assessed at 3-4 lakh tonnes. For June, Bihar Government asked for 3 lakh tonnes and for July and August 2.5 lakh tonnes each.

No demand as such has been placed for allotment of specific quantities of sugar during each month.

(b) A statement giving the information is attached. [See Appendix LXI, Annexure No. 5].

(c) Bihar Government have not specified any quantity of foodgrains and sugar as requirements of the scarcity areas.

†SILT ACCUMULATION IN RIVER HOOGHLY

135. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the silt accumulation in the River Hooghly is causing serious difficulties to the Calcutta port; and

(b) if so, what short-term as well as long-term proposals are under Government's consideration to remove the silt?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) Yes. Accumulation of silt in the Hooghly River affects the draft available to ships entering and leaving the port. The mean draft which in 1951 was 25 feet 2 inches has deteriorated to 23 feet 6 inches in 1966.

(b) The Calcutta Port Commissioners have executed river training works to improve the flow conditions in some of the difficult reaches in the Hooghly at a cost of over Rs. 5 crores.

†Transferred from the 26th July, 1967.