

cooperative societies for agricultural production should be utilised for the purpose. With this object the loaning policy and procedure in cooperatives have been made production-oriented. Under the Crop Loan System which has been introduced in the cooperative structure, credit is determined on the basis of per acre scale of finance and is disbursed in cash and kind. State Governments have also been advised to strengthen the supervising machinery in cooperative banks and Cooperation Departments for checking utilisation of credit.

#### STATES SURPLUS IN FOODGRAINS

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

(a) the names of the State in the country which produce surplus foodgrains;

(b) the annual requirement of foodgrains of each of these States; and

(c) the total quantity of foodgrains produced in each of these States during the last crop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) Whether a State is surplus, self-sufficient or deficit depends upon its production and consumption requirements. The former varies from year to year and the latter depends on a number of factors including growth of population, shifts in consumption patterns, rise in levels of income etc. However, on the basis of the pattern of Government distribution of foodgrains during the last few years, it can be said that during a year of normal production and taking all foodgrains together, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Punjab can be classified as surplus States.

(b) There has been no scientific and comprehensive survey on the consumption of foodgrains in India so far. The requirements of foodgrains are also elastic to some extent depending on the availability of foodgrains and of other substitute foodstuffs, their comparative prices, level of income, etc. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate precise requirement of foodgrains of any State at any particular point of time.

(c) Final estimates of production of foodgrains for the crop year 1966-67 are not yet available.

#### INTERIM RELIEF TO WORKERS OF PARADEEP PORT

355. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first and second interim relief due to the workers since April, 1966 and August, 1966 in the Paradeep port project and also the *ex-gratia* payment to the workers as a substitute to bonus has been paid to them;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when this payment is likely to be made to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The question of granting to the Paradeep port employees the first and the second interim reliefs, recommended by the Central Wage Board for port and dock workers, is under consideration. As regards *ex-gratia* payment in lieu of bonus, this concession has been given only to employees of major port trusts.

#### CULTIVABLE LAND IN BIHAR

356. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD: Will the Minister of FOOD

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.