

(c) what further measures he contemplates to bring down the price?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA) : (a) and (b) During the first eleven months of 1965 prices of edible oils rose due to the general inflationary trend in the economy. But as a result of various measures taken by the Government, prices have exhibited a declining trend since December, 1965.

(c) The Government of India are keeping a watch over the price and supply position of edible oils. With a view to reducing the demand of the Vanaspati industries on vegetable oils, the Vanaspati industry have been persuaded to make a voluntary cut of 20% in production with effect from the 1st February, 1966. A proposal for import of a further quantity of 150,000 tonnes of soyabean oil from U.S.A. under P.L. 480 during 1966 (over and above 70,000 tonnes imported during 1965) for use in the manufacture of Vanaspati and Refined Oil is under consideration of the Government of India.

FOODGRAIN SUPPLIES TO COOPERATIVES RUN BY INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

397. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some instructions were recently issued by Government in the matter of supplies of foodgrains to consumer cooperative societies run by workers in the industrial concerns in places where statutory rationing is enforced; and

(b) if so, the details of the instructions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The advice given to the State Governments regarding supplies to be made to all consumer co-operatives is as follows :

(i) Consumer co-operatives should be attached to wholesale co-operative stores for the purpose of drawing supplies and not to private wholesalers. Exceptions may be made where in view of the distance involved a particular co-operative store prefers to draw supplies from a nearer private wholesaler; and

(ii) Issue of rationed commodities to consumer co-operatives from Government stocks may be made on a consignment basis.

State Governments are, however, to exercise discretion in this matter, if there are other considerations suggesting an alternative course.

398. [Transferred to the 23rd March, 1966]

FOOD SITUATION IN ANDAMAN ISLANDS

399. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that rice is sold at Rs. 3 per kilo in Andaman Islands and that the food situation there is critical as per a news-item appearing in "Times of India" of 19th February, 1966 on page 3 of the Delhi edition;

(b) if so, what is the total amount of foodgrains supplied to the Andaman Islands annually and what is the demand of the Islands annually;

(c) what is the amount of foodgrains harvested annually in the Islands; and

(d) what is the total cultivable acreage in the Islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON) : (a) No report of rice selling in Andamans at Rs. 3 per kilo has been received by Government of India apart from the news-item.

(b) The annual demand of Andaman Islands for foodgrains from Central stocks is about 4500 tonnes and is met in full.

(c) During the last two years production of rice in the Islands was about nine thousand tonnes.