

(b) Rs. 33.28 lakhs. The information about the works on which this provision would be utilised is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

SETTING UP OF CO-OPERATIVE SUGAR MILLS IN MYSORE STATE

*20. SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: Will the Minister of Food and AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three co-operative sugar mills were approved for Mysore State by a Committee of the Ministry a few months ago; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in issuing the licences?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) The Screening Committee set up in the Department of Food for examining applications received for licensing of additional capacity in the sugar industry had recommended grant of licences for establishment of two co-operative sugar factories in Mysore State.

(b) No letter of intent could be issued to these co-operatives as well as to those recommended in other States because the question of availability of rupee finance for grant of loans by I.F.C. was under examination.

IMPORTED FOODGRAINS SHOWN AS WASTE

*21. SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN): Will the Minister of Food and AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 27,833 tonnes of foodgrains received out of the total quantity of 43 lakh tonnes under P.L. 480 in the first ten months of last year were shown as waste?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): Yes, sir; but the quantity represents the loss during transport of foodgrains by ship, rail and road and is due to shortlanding, loss in transit

by rail and road and handling and storage in godowns.

RISE IN PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

*22. SHRI G. MURAHARI: Will the Minister of Food and AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the continued rise in prices of foodgrains throughout the country; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to arrest the increase in prices?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) The prices of wheat and other rabi foodgrains have started falling with the harvesting of the new crop. The prices of other foodgrains are having a slight seasonal fluctuations.

(b) The Government has already taken the following measures to control the prices of foodgrains:

- (i) the import of foodgrains from abroad and procurement from internal surplus States have been stepped and large quantities are now being distributed in deficit States, through fair price shops;
- (ii) The enforcement of statutory rationing in Calcutta and informal rationing in Kerala have been tightened;
- (iii) Licensing control on traders has been tightened;
- (iv) Restrictions on bank advances against stocks of foodgrains have been tightened;
- (v) Maximum controlled prices for rice and paddy and certain other foodgrains have been notified; and
- (vi) The Food Corporation of India has been set up to make purchases of foodgrains and distribute these at reasonable prices.