

to nominate the dealers. The dealers have to be licensed and their margin of 2.68 per quintal plus the transport charges have been fixed. That is the maximum that can be charged. We have also said that it is desirable to distribute it through fair price shops. I might submit that there are as many as 4,036 fair price shops now functioning in the various States, and 1,203 wholesale co-operatives and about 10,000 retail co-operatives handling sugar in the various States.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Ma, I know, Sir, the reason for fixing a quota of 1,500 tonnes of sugar for the State of Jammu and Kashmir when the State of Jammu and Kashmir has got a good number of population as also it attracts 80,000 tourists. The quota of this State is only 1,500 tonnes while the quota for other States is 6,600, 12,000, 13,000 tonnes and so on.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: In fact, from Jammu and Kashmir State there has not been such a persistent demand as from other States because the State gets a satisfactory quantity. In fact I might say, Sir, that if there is any such demand it would be difficult to meet it. This quota is enough for the requirements of Jammu and Kashmir State.

श्री धार० के० भुवालका : क्या मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि राजस्थान में पापुलेशन के हिसाब से कौटा दिया जाता है ?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Rajasthan has a quota of 6,000 tons. It has been given as a special case, another 1,000 tons in the last three months.

•439. [Transferred to the 11th March, 1964]

BUFFER STOCK OF FOODGRAINS

*440. SHRI BABUBHAI M CHINAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to create a buffer stock of 6 million tons of foodgrains; and

(b) if §0, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to build up gradually a buffer stock of 4 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of rice, making arrangements simultaneously for proper storage and turning over of stocks.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know if this morning's newspaper report about import, under P.L. 480, of 5 million tons of wheat for buffer stock is correct and, if so, when it is expected to arrive?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It may be simply a surmise. We are stepping up our imports of wheat under P.L. 480. Even the present imports come to about 4 to 4½ lakh tons. Our idea is to increase it to 5 lakh tons every month so that the offtake may be more or less met by current imports so that the reserve stocks may not be affected.

SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY: What is the percentage of imports in relation to the local procurement?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Our idea is to build up buffer stock both by local procurement as well as by imports. As far as wheat is concerned, there is not much scope for local procurement. We produce round about 11 million tons and we import on an average about 3½ to 4 million tons a year. Last year we distributed about 4 million or to be exact 3.8 million tons. So there is not much scope for indigenous procurement as far as wheat is concerned. As far as rice is concerned, the position is that there are limitations for imports because there is world shortage of rice, and also we have foreign exchange difficulties. So

we are trying to build up buffer stocks by imports as well as by procurement from within the country. When there is a good rice crop there is, of course, considerable scope for procurement. Our idea this year is, there must be procurement of one million tons both by the Central and by the States.

PURCHASE OF SUPERSONIC JETS FOR AIR INDIA.

•441. SHRI BIREN ROY: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state whether any provision has been made under the caption 'Transport' in the Fourth Five Year Plan towards the purchase of Supersonic Jets for Air India; if so, how much?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): The Fourth Five Year Plan is still under discussion and the plan is yet to be finalised. Air India have proposed in their Fourth Plan a sum of Rs. 26.93 crores towards purchase of aircraft. It may however be mentioned that if supersonic aircraft is to be acquired, full payment will not be due during the Fourth Plan period.

SHRI BIREN ROY: In view of the fact that the Chairman of Air India mentioned on the 2nd February at the London airport that in order to compete in the Atlantic route, Air India is going to acquire and have delivery positions fixed for the supersonic aircraft of American make, what is the delivery position that has now been fixed after the deposit has been made by the Government and when was the decision taken about the purchase?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: The decision is only to make a deposit for reserving a delivery position. It does not mean that an order has been placed. By the terms offered by the manufacturers or by the U.S.A. Government, the delivery position is

only to be reserved and the final specifications will be known in 1965. If we decide not to place an order, the deposit will be returned without any penalty. At the present moment, it is simply a deposit for reservation of a delivery position and nothing more.

SHRI BIREN ROY: I wanted to know what is the delivery position. There are certain positions given to each Airline as soon as the deposit is made and my information is up to 15th December, 72 aircraft have already been given delivery position to the different airlines who have booked. What is the delivery position of Air India? Is it after 72 or 88 or 100? That is what I wanted to know so that we shall be in a position to know whether the statement of the Chairman of Air India is correct that they will be in a position to compete in that route from 1970—or is it from 1973?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: We have no exact information as to how many airlines have placed orders and for how many. Of course, there are newspaper reports. What the hon. Member says may be correct that our position may come after 70 aircraft have been delivered and that is exactly what Air India also wants that after the delivery begins, if it is delivered after about a year or a year and a half, it will be all right.

SHRI BIREN ROY: I have put a very clear question and not only the Department of Communications but the D.G.C.A. also should be able to know, what is the position as soon as a deposit has been made, which he says amounts to 300,000 dollars. I have a list of airlines who have been given delivery positions and if it is necessary, I shall place before the House and up to 78 the Pan-American Airways, TWA, Air France and others come from the beginning and so on and so forth. What is the delivery position which Mr. Tata has stated in