

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The hon. Deputy Minister said that he was considering the feasibility of decontrolling sugar. May I ask him if that would also imply that they would give free permission to people to set up khandsari units in various areas?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: There will have to be balance between the production of mill sugar and khandsari sugar. In khandsari production there is a certain amount of wastage involved in the utilisation of cane. But to the extent cane is available, apart from mill production, we can encourage khandsari and it is on that basis that licensing is being done.

*218. [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jaipuria) was absent. For answer vide col. 1249 infra.]

*219. [The questioner (Shrimati C. Ammanna Raja) was absent. For answer vide cols. 1249-50 infra.]

BUFFER STOCKS OF WHEAT AND RICE

*220. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the progress so far made in the building up of buffer stocks of wheat and rice?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): Government of India slowly built up stocks of 19 lakh tonnes of wheat and 5.6 lakh tonnes of rice by the middle of 1963. Thereafter, due to increased issues caused by successive crop failures, the stocks got depleted heavily. Attempt is being made again to build up the stocks by reducing commitments but the progress will depend very much upon what we shall be able to import during the next year.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: May I know what is the expected consumption for the current year and also the expected availability, what would

be the gap and how that gap is going to be filled?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The estimate is just being made and I won't be able to give the figures just now.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Is it a fact that the Government have not been able to give rice to Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra out of its buffer stocks and that as a result no rice is being sold either in the white or the black market in the city of Nagpur?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: We have a basic plan for the supply of rice to Maharashtra, not necessarily from Andhra but from various other sources, from imports and from the various States in India. I think we are sticking to that basic plan. There is not much of a shortfall in the supply but I know in spite of that because of scarcity conditions in Maharashtra the need has increased but we are unable to step up the supply because the seasonal conditions have affected production in the various States.

SHRI K. DAMODARAN: May I know what portion of the buffer stocks is being imported through P.L. 480?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: As far as wheat is concerned it is naturally out of P.L. 480. Of course we are making some imports by commercial purchases and recently we also have had procurement within the country but the main source for buffer stocks will be P.L. 480.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: It is true not only of Maharashtra and other States, but even in Delhi good rice is not available. What steps is the Government going to take to make good rice available in Delhi?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: One factor will have to be recognised,

namely, this year the seasonal conditions have been bad and, therefore, we cannot expect to have the same availability as during last year. There is bound to be shortage. Therefore, what is important is to see that we make an equitable distribution of whatever is available. That is why I am impressing upon the State Governments the fact that because of the decrease in availability, they will have to undertake statutory rationing.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, what is the present stock with the Government of wheat and rice and for how many days or months it will last?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I will not venture to give the actual figures. Generally it is not given, but the stocks with the Government are much better than what they were last year.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether the system of obtaining or procurement of wheat under the P.L. 480 scheme has been changed, as has been reported in the papers, from monthly quota to half-yearly quotas?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: It does not arise out of this question. I have answered this question in sufficient detail on the previous day.

ग्राम चुनाव

* 221. { श्री वत्सोपल्लवेंगड़ी :
श्री रमेशचन्द्र शंकरराव
खांडेकर :

क्या बिधि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या आगामी ग्राम चुनावों को निश्चित समय से पूर्व ही कराने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है; और यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

‡[GENERAL ELECTIONS

*221. { SHRI D. THENGARI:
SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR:

Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to hold the next General Elections before the scheduled time; and if so, the reasons therefor?]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI JAGANATH RAO): No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration of Government to hold the next General Elections before the scheduled time.

§[बिधि मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री जगन्नाथ राव): जी नहीं। आगामी साधारण निर्वाचन निश्चित समय से पूर्व कराने की कोई प्रस्तावना सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं है।

SHRI D. THENGARI: Even as it has been assured that the elections will not be held before the time schedule, will the Minister also assure us that they will not be postponed either?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: I can give the assurance on the floor of this House that the next general elections will be held in February-March, 1967.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: The hon. Minister said that the elections will be held according to schedule. May I ask him whether the elections to the Orissa Legislative Assembly will also take place as scheduled, that is, earlier than the general elections, or will they be held simultaneously with the general elections?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: There is a separate question about Orissa elections and I will give the reply then.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask the hon. Deputy Minister, arising out of

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri D. Thengari.

‡[] English translation.

§[] Hindi translation.