

STATEMENT RE. STARRED QUESTION NO. 521 ANSWERED ON THE 30TH AUGUST, 1960

RELEASE OF RESERVE STOCKS OF FOOD-GRAINS FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT GODOWNS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SKRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): Sir, while replying on the 30th August, 1960, to supplementary questions arising out of Starred Question No. 521 by Shri P. C. Mitra, I had stated as follows in reply to the second supplementary question by Shri P. C. Mitra:

"He has all the powers. Whenever he wants, the local District Magistrate, who is in charge of food distribution there, can place an indent on the Central Government's godown. He can direct that godown to deliver stocks. That is the system working in all the States."

The reply to this supplementary question should have been:

"The District Magistrates operate on the stocks of foodgrains in State Government godowns maintained by the Supply Department of the State Government out of allocations made by the Central Government. The District Magistrate or the Deputy Commissioner has to approach the Supply Department of his State Government for the replenishment of stocks in the State godowns. Accordingly, the question of authorising District Magistrates or Deputy Commissioners to requisition stocks from the Central Government godowns does not arise."

STATEMENT RE. THE COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS' CONFERENCE PROPOSED TO BE HELD IN MARCH, 1961

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHHTMATI LAKSHMI MENON): Sir, some weeks ago, Mr. Macmillan, Prime Minister

of the United Kingdom, consulted the Prime Ministers about holding a meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers early in March next. He felt that a meeting earlier than at first intended would be advisable in view of recent developments in the world situation and the many difficult problems that had to be faced

The Prime Minister welcomed the idea of such a meeting, but pointed out that March was rather a difficult month for him to leave India because of our Budget debates. He suggested a somewhat later date, but added that if a later date was not found suitable, he would be prepared to agree to the proposed date in March.

There have been further consultations among the Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth since then, and it has now been decided that the meeting will commence in London on the 8th March, 1961. It is the Prime Minister's intention to attend this meeting.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE WAKF ACT, 1954

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (6) of section 66A of the Wakf Act, 1954, a copy each of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power:—

(i) Notification G.S.R. No. 1032, dated the 25th August, 1960, publishing the Patiala and East Punjab States Union Wakf Board (Dissolution) Order, 1960.

(ii) Notification G.S.R. No. 1075, dated the 7th September, 1960, publishing the Travancore-Cochin Wakf Board (Dissolution) Order, 1960.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2411/60 for (i) and (ii)].