

HYBRID JOWAR SEEDS

*49. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of Food AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether hybrid jowar seeds have been produced in India; and

(b) what are the stations where work on hybrid jowar is being done?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN):

(a) Yes, but only on experimental scale at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, and the Vivekananda Laboratory, Almora.

(b) Work on jowar including hybrid jowar will be carried out at nine Centres, namely, Amravati, I.A.R.I., New Delhi, Surat, Daresgur, Junagarh, Mohal, Bellary, Gwalior and Dharwar set up under the Projects for intensification of regional research on cotton, oilseeds and millets.

FOOD SITUATION IN WEST BENGAL

*64. SHRI M. BASAVAPUNNAIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister's attention has been drawn by some members of the Opposition Party to the serious food situation in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN):

(a) Yes, Sir, Certain Members of Parliament wrote to the Prime Minister in June 1959 about the food situation in West Bengal and the matter was also discussed at the Prime Minister's Informal Committee with the Opposition Parties.

(b) The Government of West Bengal rescinded the Price Control Order and the Rice Procurement Order with effect from 24-6-59, with the concurrence of the Government of India. Since then the availability of rice in the market has improved. At the request of the Government of

West Bengal, the Government of India have agreed to supply about 2 lakh tons of rice and about 4 lakh tons of wheat during the period July to December 1959.

SUSPENSION OF LEVY AND PRICE CONTROL ORDER IN WEST BENGAL

*65. SHRI M. BASAVAPUNNAIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of West Bengal suspended the Levy and Price Control Order in West Bengal, following their talks with the Secretary, Department of Food of the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): Yes, Sir. At the request of the West Bengal Government, who were concerned about the situation prevailing in West Bengal, the Secretary, Department of Food, went to Calcutta and the West Bengal Government had consultations with him. On a full examination of the situation, the West Bengal Government came to the decision that the Levy and Price Control Orders should be suspended, to increase the availability of rice in the market. The Government of India concurred with the decision.

THEFTS FROM WAGONS AT ITARSI

*66. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Police at Itarsi have complained that many thefts which are committed from the wagons are due to the stoppage of the trains at the outer signal; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Every effort is made to ensure that goods trains are received into yards without being stopped at outer