

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Madam. Initially the Food Corporation of India was permitted to purchase wheat in 15 big mandies and subsequently the U. P. Government requested the Corporation to enter more mandies. By now the Corporation is purchasing wheat in 35 centres.

(b) Over 45 thousand tonnes of wheat has been purchased so far and all this wheat has been stored in Uttar Pradesh godowns.

DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREAS OF VIZAG AND SRIKAKULAM DISTRICTS

316. SHRI SANDA NARAYAN-APPA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Central team has been sent this year to Vizag and Srikakulam Districts in Andhra Pradesh to tackle the problem of chronic drought-affected areas in these two districts;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether any report from this team has been received by Government; and

(c) if so, what are the measures taken to develop these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) No, Madam. A Central Team, however, visited various districts of Andhra Pradesh including districts of Vizag and Srikakulam for providing short term relief to drought-affected areas.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

ISSUE PRICE OF WHEAT

317. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India have increased the issue price of wheat recently;

(b) if so, what is the increase effected; and

(c) what are the reasons for the increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The issue prices of wheat supplied from the Central stocks have been revised by the Government of India with effect from 17-6-68. As a result of this revision, there has been an increase in the issue prices of imported wheat only. The increase in case of imported red wheat is Rs. 3.00 per quintal while in case of imported white wheat, it is Rs. 23.00 per quintal.

(c) The increase in the issue prices of imported wheat is due to the fixation of uniform issue prices for comparable varieties of both the indigenous and imported wheat.

DISMISSAL OF DEPOT MANAGERS AND ASSISTANTS OF DELHI MILK SCHEME

318. SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY :
SARDAR RAM SINGH :
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that numerous complaints have been voiced through the newspapers regarding indiscriminate and arbitrary dismissal of depot managers and assistants of the Delhi Milk Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of such instances and whether representations and memoranda in this regard have been received from the persons concerned and from various unions; and

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the various charges and allegations levelled by these employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) Two letters to the Editor in regard to working conditions of depot staff of Delhi Milk Scheme under headings "An Insider on the D. M. S." and "Student on D.M.S." appeared in the "Hindustan Times" on May 21, 1968 and June 18, 1968.

(b) Representations regarding working conditions of depot staff have been received from an organisation called Mazdoor Samaj Kendra. Representation regarding termination of services have