SUPPLY OF RICE TO KERALA

346. SHRI P. C. MITRA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had made a firm commitment to the Government of Kerala to supply the State with a monthly quota of 70,000 tonnes of rice;

(b) the quantum of rice supplied to the State by the Union and other State Government agencies during the period of 14 months, from April, 1967 to May, 1968, (both months inclusive) and the quantum of supply to the State during the corresponding previous 14 months; and

(c) if there has been a shortfall in the supply of rice to the State since 1967, what are the causes thereof and what measures the Union Government took to relieve the distress of the people of Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) Central Government undertook to meet the requirements of informal rationing in Kerala. On a 6 oz. per adult per day basis the requirement of rice comes to about 70,000 tonnes. The quantum of ration has, however, to be changed from time to time on the basis of availability.

(b) Rice despatched to Kerala from different sources against Central allocations during the said period was as follows:—

	Tonnes
April, 1967 to May, 1968 .	630,700
April, 1966 to May, 1967 .	8,30,900

(c) Shortfall in supplies during 1967-68 was due to overall shortage of rice with the Centre. The shortfall in supplies of rice was made good by additional supplies of wheat. The cardholders in Kerala are allowed to draw extra wheat in lieu of the shortfall in the quantum of rice ration in addition to their normal wheat ration.

खाद्यान्न की वसूली

347. **श्रीमती विद्यावती चतुर्वेदी :** : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) अभी तक सरकार ने भारतीय खाद्य निगम के माध्यम से कितना खाद्यान्न वसूल कर लिया है;

(ख) सरकार का खाद्यान्न वसूल करने का लक्ष्य कितना है; और

(ग) क्या सरकार अब भी अमरीका आदि देशों से खाद्यान्न का आयात करते रहने का विचार रखती है?

†[PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS

347. SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantity of foodgrains procured by Government so far in the country through the Food Corporation of India;

(b) what is the target fixed by Government for the procurement of foodgrains; and

(c) whether Government propose to continue with the import of foodgrains from other countries such as the U.S.A. etc.?]

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अण्णासाहेब शिंदे) : (क) अन्तिम उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार भारतीय खाद्य निगम अभी तक 1967–68 की फसल में से लगभग 30 लाख मीटरी टन खाद्यान्नों की अधिप्राप्ति कर चुका है।

(ख) कृषि मूल्य आयोग ने 1967–68 के लिये कुल 80 लाख मीटरी टन खाद्यान्न की अधिप्राप्ति के लक्ष्य की सिफारिश की थी। अधिकांश राज्यों ने इस लक्ष्य को नहीं माना है, परंतु भारत सरकार ने इसके स्थान पर कोई दूसरे लक्ष्य निर्धारित नहीं किये हैं।

(ग) आयात की मात्रा को धीरे-धीरे कम करने और जब खाद्य उत्पादन में आत्म निर्भरता प्राप्त कर ली जाती है तो उसे पूर्णत: समाप्त करने का विचार है।

†[ ] English translation.