

ed for execution in 1968-69 in Rajasthan State:

- (i) In Barmer district, a scheme should be prepared for the renovation of about 10 tanks and the protection of their catchment areas;
- (ii) In Jaisalmer district, a programme of pasture and fodder development should be taken up on the basis of water available from certain tube-wells which might otherwise remain undeveloped in this areas;
- (iii) In Jodhpur district, soil and water conservation work should be taken up along with a scheme for piped supply to some villages in Lonj tehsil.

(c) and (d). No definite targets were fixed for 1967-68. However, it had been decided to take up work on a pilot basis in one C. D. Block in each of the 3 States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana. These Blocks were as follows:—

- (i) Luni Block in Jodhpur district in Rajasthan.
- (ii) Mohindergarh II Block in Mohindergarh district in Haryana.
- (iii) Santalpur area in Banas-kantha district in Gujarat.

It was proposed to carry out scientific surveys of the resources of these Blocks with a view to prepare detailed project reports for them for implementation during 1968-69. However, the Desert Development Board, at its first meeting held on the 25th January, 1968, considered the programme to be taken up for the development of desert areas and decided to give up the Block approach altogether. It recommended that if a particular activity was considered to be worth taking up, it need not be confined to the limits of one Block in each State as had been the thinking so far. Accordingly, detailed schemes

are now being prepared by the State Governments of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana in regard to the programmes to be taken up for execution during 1968-69 on the basis of activities considered most suitable in the circumstances prevailing in each of these States.

Import of Rice

1554. SHRI T. D. RAMABADRAN:
SHRI MAYAVAN:
SHRI DEIVEEKAN:
SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR
SHAH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approached Thailand and Burma for the supply of rice;

(b) if so, their reaction thereto;

(c) the total quantity of rice to be imported from these countries;

(d) whether any other country has been approached for the supply of rice; and

(e) the total quantity of rice required during 1968 for distribution in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Negotiations are still in progress with these countries and the quantities of rice likely to be available are not as yet known.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The quantity of rice required for the public distribution system from central and state stocks during 1968 is estimated at about 33 lakh tonnes.