

Shri Shashi Ranjan:
 Shri Chandak:
 Shri D. D. Mantri:
 Shri Parashar:
 Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation is building buffer stocks of wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the extent of the stocks to be built and where they will be kept; and

(c) how their distribution will be administered?

The Minister of **Food and Agriculture** (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) to (c). The Food Corporation will build up buffer stocks of foodgrains on behalf of the Government. The Central Government intends to build up gradually a buffer stock of 4 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of rice at suitable places within the country. The Corporation will administer the building up, maintenance, turn-over and distribution of these stocks in accordance with the directives issued by the Government.

Import of Foodgrains

*352. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shrimati Jobraben Chavda:
 Dr. Mahadeva Prasad:
 Shri Gulshan:
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
 Shri Himatsingka:
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India has proposed a substantial increase in P.L.-480 foodgrain imports in the next two years to build adequate buffer stocks of wheat and rice; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

The Minister of **Food and Agriculture** (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and

(b). The matter relating to a new agreement under P.L. 480 for imports of foodgrains beyond June 1965 when the supplies under the current agreement are expected to be completed is at present under consideration. It is not possible at this stage to indicate the quantities which might be provided under the new Agreement.

Procurement of Foodgrains

*353. { Shri Prabhat Kar:
 Shri Indrajit Gupta:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri D. N. Tiwary:
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 Shri K. N. Tiwary:
 Shri Heda:
 Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
 Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
 Shri Chandak:
 Shri P. B. Chakraverti:
 Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that conflicting agricultural price policies pursued by the different States and their divergent procurement policies are coming in the way of procurement of foodgrains and hampering the work of the Food Corporation;

(b) if so, how far the grain procurement targets for this year are likely to be hit thereby; and

(c) the steps taken to clear the way for smooth procurement?

The Minister of **Food and Agriculture** (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Wheat from France

*354. { Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
 Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that France has informed the Government of India that she can supply wheat to India;