

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** I have already mentioned that they are about 161 so far as West Bengal is concerned and about 300 and odd so far as Assam is concerned.

#### Agricultural Production

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- \*538. **Shri P. C. Borooah:**  
**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**  
**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**  
**Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri Hem Barua:**

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state the steps taken to ensure that the recent offer of 15 million tonnes of food-grains through PL 480 by U.S.A. does not create complacency in the States in regard to 'Grow More Food Drive' and to prevent diversion of funds from agriculture in the States/Union Territories?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra):** Government have had no information to indicate any complacency on the part of any State in regard to agricultural production as a result of the availability so far this year of 4.5 million tonnes of foodgrains under PL 480. On the contrary, the State Governments have responded actively to call for organising special drives for increased food production. There is, therefore, no danger of diversion of funds meant for agricultural production. Moreover, under existing procedure, Central assistance to any State is reduced proportionately in the event of any such diversion.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** May I know how far Government agree with the latest unofficial estimate that the food production of this year would be near about 80 million tonnes as against 78 million tonnes estimated sometime ago, and in the light of this, may I know if the government is going to review the import position and reduce the import on account of these better prospects?

**The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri C. Subramaniam):** The official estimate is still round about 76 to 77 million tonnes. Even if it is taken as 80 million tonnes, it is only a marginal improvement and there is still a big gap to be filled.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** Is it a fact that while we continue to import food-grains, at least some 8 million tonnes of last year's record crop of 88 million tonnes are still in the hands of the hoarders and may I know under what circumstances these grains are not taken out and what steps the government have taken so that further hoarding is not done next year also?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** That is why we have a system of procurement in all the States for the purpose of getting under government control as much as possible. It is only on this basis that we are introducing statutory rationing also in other areas so that there may not be any temptation for people to hoard and obtain higher prices from people who have got a higher purchasing power.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** While we are happy to note that the State Governments are very much aware of this, may I know, as a result of their awareness plus the increased expenditure that is going to be incurred on agriculture, what will be the approximate estimated increase in food production in the current year and in the next one year plan?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I am sure, hon. Members are aware, when this crisis came over us, we took a special drive for bringing land under additional crop. We planned to have at least 3.5 million acres under additional crops of various sorts and allotted quotas for the States. The present estimate is that instead of 3.5 million acres it will be 4 million acres achievement. As far as the next year, 1966-67, is concerned, we

are making an allotment of roughly 35 per cent to 40 per cent more than what we spent during 1965-66 for agricultural production programmes and we are fixing a target of 95 million to 97 million tons for 1966-67.

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** The hon. Minister stated that fresh allotments have been made to the States for 1966-67. The hon. Minister also stated that there is no complacency at all. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has any information as to whether the amount allotted for small and minor irrigation schemes to the States during 1965-66 has been completely utilised?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Yes; as a matter of fact, there has been pressure for further allotments having exhausted all the allocations which have already been made.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether the Centre is going to advise the State Governments about the scientific method of intensive cultivation?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Yes, Sir, that is special programme which we have taken up for the introduction of new varieties of crops with high fertilisation, plant protection methods etc.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Is it not a fact that this spoon-feeding under PL 480 by the United States of America has produced a psychology of slackening efforts on the part of our Government; if so, may I know whether, in this context, the Government are convinced.....

**Shri Sezhiyan:** Ship-feeding and not spoon-feeding.

**Shri Hem Barua:** I said: "spoon-feeding". In that context, may I know if the Government are convinced of the fact that India would not be self-sufficient in food production as long as this external aid continues?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** External aid is a short-term measure. I have

made it quite plain here and it has been made plain by USA also that this aid will not be continuously available. Particularly, this crisis has made us aware of the necessity to go forward and attain self-sufficiency as early as possible. Therefore, all steps are now being taken for this purpose.

**श्री रामसेवक यादव :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि राज्य सरकारें खाद्यान्नों का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए कार्यवाही कर रही हैं। मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या उन कार्यवाहियों में सिंचाई की योजना को भी प्रोत्साहन देना है? यदि हां, तो क्या मंत्री महोदय की यह जानकारी है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में सीमेंट के वितरण में जो उसके डीलर या थोक व्यापारी हैं वह सीमेंट नहीं दे रहे हैं जब तक उसका ज्यादा दाम न दिया जाय? यदि हां, तो क्या कार्यवाही इसके लिए कर रहे हैं?

साध, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री इयामबर मिश्र) : उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए सिंचाई पानी और खाद सब की व्यवस्था की जा रही है। इस साल 1965-66 में करीब करीब जो प्लान है उसके अलावा 15 करोड़ बड़े बड़े प्रोजेक्ट्स के लिए इकट्ठा रुपया दिया गया है और करीब करीब 8-10 करोड़ रुपया और दिया गया है माइनर इरिगेशन के एक्स्ट्रा फंड में वियांड प्लान सीलिंग जिसमें उत्तर प्रदेश का भी हिस्सा रहा है। गंडक योजना में और माइनर इरिगेशन में भी उत्तर प्रदेश का हिस्सा रहा है।

जहां तक सीमेंट की व्यवस्था है मेरी इत्तिला तो यह है कि सीमेंट अब बाकायदे जो डीकंट्रोल हो गया उसके बाद मिल रहा है। यह इत्तिला आफिशियली भी है और मैं एक नान-आफिशियल के नाते भी कह रहा हूँ कि मेरे जिले बनारस में काफी सीमेंट मिल रहा है और हर जगह मिल रहा है।

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** From the past experience we have seen that in spite of the assertion made by the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture here on behalf of the States and also in spite of pumping funds into the Plans and things like that, in regard to food production practically no State has come up to expectation. May I know how the hon. Minister has ensured himself now that hereafter the planned progress of all the States will be in a manner that will bring them up to the expectations now and also in the future?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I would not say that no State has come up to expectations. I can say that Punjab has done more than what we expected. In the same way, some of the States like Madras and Andhra Pradesh have also done well. After all, we learn by experience. We try to find out how and why we failed to reach our expectations and then we try alternatives. It is on that basis that I say that our expectation is that we will be able to perform better in the Fourth Plan.

**Shri R. S. Pandey:** Is it a fact that when PL 480 negotiations were going on with the American authorities, specially with President Johnson, certain suggestions were made by the American Government to be implemented in order to produce more in this country?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** When we asked for further commitment with regard to supply under PL 480, it was put to us that we cannot continuously depend on PL 480 imports, we have to take measures, and that too measures which are certain to yield results, so that within a foreseeable future we would attain a stage of self-sufficiency. In that connection we discussed with them a programme which we have evolved for reaching self-sufficiency.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** The hon. Minister stated that PL 480 imports is a temporary measure. May I know whether Government has set

any time-limit after which PL 480 imports will not be necessary?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** We have a phased programme of cutting down imports and we hope that by the end of the Fourth Plan we will not need any more imports.

#### National Food Authority

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- \*539. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**  
**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shri P. C. Borooah:**  
**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Shri Kajrolkar:**  
**Shri Parashar:**

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to set up a high-powered National Food Authority to look after the procurement and distribution of food; and

(b) if so, its main features?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** While appreciating the statement that there is no idea to establish a National Food Authority, may I know whether it is not a fact that there are districts in every State which are surplus but the policy of procurement of the Central Government is being thwarted, or not being followed, by the States? In that case, how do the Government propose to make the erring States to follow the policy?

**Shri Govinda Menon:** By and large, the surplus States are procuring for the needs of the deficit States.

**The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation:**