

BARTER DEAL WITH RUSSIA

*287. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations between Russia and our Government for the supply of Russian wheat on barter system have been concluded; and

(b) if so, what has been the result these licences.

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):
(a) No, please.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the number of licences issued to private trade for importing rice from soft currency areas?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): That question should be addressed to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which issues these licences.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: This is about Russia.

PRIVATE TRADE IN FOOD GRAINS

*288. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow import of self-raising flour, maize and barley on trade account from abroad; and

(b) if so, whether any conditions have been attached with respect to the import and sale of these food grains?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):
(a) Yes.

(b) Self-raising flour is allowed to be imported by actual users only whereas applications for the import of maize and barley are considered on an *ad-hoc* basis by the Chief Controller of Imports. Import licences for maize and barely are issued on the condition that they will not be sold in rationed areas. Their sale will

also be subject to local or other controls applicable to them in the State concerned.

Shri Dabhi: May I know the quantity of these foodgrains which have been imported up to this time?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): We have no information, but I might inform the hon. Member that as the production of maize and barley in this country is now sufficient to meet the local requirements, we have requested the Commerce and Industry Ministry not to issue further licences.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो इंटर स्टेट कंट्रोल है उस को कब तक हटाया जावेगा ?

श्री किशवर्दी : अभी जल्दी कोई इरादा नहीं है।

Shri Bansal: May I know whether the attention of the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture has been invited to a statement by the Russian Ambassador in our country that a negotiation with the Government of India was afoot, and that it will be soon concluded?

Shri Kidwai: That is about a trade agreement, under which we will be able to import whatever quantity of wheat, or rice, or anything they could supply us and they can take from here whatever they can.

CONTROL ON RICE

*289. **Shri Dabhi:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have decided to remove all controls on food grains except rice?

(b) To what extent will the control on rice be continued and for what reasons?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):
(a) Government of India have decided