

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CASH CROPS

*1596. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the land under the cultivation of cash crops has increased at the expense of cultivation of food crops after the introduction of food controls; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to avert this process?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Until the inauguration of the integrated production Programme in 1950, there was no official plan for the diversion of land from foodgrains to cash crops. Under this programme, however, a plan was made under which the Government was prepared for the diversion, if necessary, of 37.3 lakh acres from foodgrains (rice, millets and ragi) to jute and cotton in the years 1950-51 and 1951-52, with a view to augmenting the production of these two important cash crops. In the absence of exhaustive field to field surveys of land, it is not possible to arrive at any firm estimate of the amount of land that was actually diverted from foodgrains to jute and cotton in the two years concerned. On the basis, however, of the available data it is roughly estimated that in the sixteen states where there were plans for diversion from foodgrains to jute and cotton the maximum amount of net diversion of land from the former to the latter that may have taken place during these two years is likely to be of the order of 17.4 lakh acres only. There was no plan for diversion in other states or to other cash crops although there was some diversion due to natural causes. For the reasons explained above, it is not possible to frame any firm estimate of this diversion. But roughly speaking the net diversion from foodgrains to the five important cash crops, namely, jute, cotton, oilseeds, sugarcane and tobacco taken together does not exceed 3.3 million acres during these two years for the country as a whole. The actual diversion is in fact, likely to be appreciably less as the above estimate is based on the extreme assumption that all the addition to these cash crops was at the expense of foodgrains and not of other crops or of fallows nor due to double cropping and inter-cropping.

(b) Does not arise.

ALLOTMENT OF FOODGRAINS BY U.P. TO CENTRE

*1601. **Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.P. Government have procured any stock of food grains for fulfilling its rationing commitments till December 1952 and if so, its quantity;

(b) whether U.P. Government have also allotted any stock out of that to the Centre for distribution to the deficit States; and

(c) if so, what is the quantity of different kinds of foodgrains so allotted?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The State Government procured 4,52,000 tons of foodgrains up to 19th June 1952 this year, to fulfil their commitments.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State Government have hitherto offered for export 15,000 tons of rice, 15,000 tons of bajra and 2,300 tons of barley.

NORTH ANDAMAN FOREST

*1602. **Shri Jhunjhunwala:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions on which the tenders for working of North Andaman Forest were invited;

(b) the terms and conditions on which the final contract has been given;

(c) to whom the contract has been given; and

(d) whether the party has complied with the terms and conditions on which they have been given contract?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). A copy of the North Andamans Agreement of Licence is placed in the Library of the House. The tender notice is printed on page 9.

(c) Messrs. P. C. Ray and Company (India) Limited, Calcutta.

(d) Yes.

SUGARCANE (DESTRUCTION)

*1607. **Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some States the sugarcane standing in the fields is going to be burnt as