

(b) The work has been entrusted to the Port Trust's Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Bertlin, Wilton & Bell. It will be completed by the middle of 1967.

(c) Yes.

Chief Election Commissioner's visit to U.S.A.

442. { Shri Ram Sewak:
 { Shri P. G. Sen:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States Government had invited the Chief Election Commissioner of India and his team of election experts to visit United States Presidential Election;

(b) whether the invitation had been accepted by Government and the team went to the United States; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines of the report, if any, submitted by the team on its return?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Jaganatha Rao): (a) and (b). The Chief Election Commissioner and three other officers visited the United States of America at the invitation of the United States Government to witness the Presidential elections there.

(c) As it was not intended to be a study tour, the question of furnishing a report by the team does not arise.

Onion De-Hydration Plants

443. **Shri M. L. Jadhav:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licences for the Onion De-Hydration plants issued in the country, so far;

(b) the number of plants that have started functioning; and

(c) whether the plants are running economically and the products have good market?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) Only one licence has been issued so far for setting up an onion dehydration plant.

(b) This unit has still to arrange for plant and equipment.

(c) Dehydrated onions have a good export potential.

Procurement of Foodgrains

444. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the State Governments have declared their inability to go in for monopoly procurement in foodgrains as directed by the Central Government;

(b) if so, which ones and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether other States have committed themselves to any specific procurement targets during the coming crop season, if so, to what extent each; and

(d) the extent of procurements by the Central Government during the ensuing crop season?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) No instructions for monopoly procurement in foodgrains have been issued to any of the State Governments.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). For wheat, it is too early as yet to fix targets of procurement.

For rice, the following targets of procurement on Central Government account have been fixed:—

Andhra Pradesh .	8	lakh tonnes
Madras .	2	lakh tonnes
Madhya Pradesh .	4	lakh tonnes
Orissa .	3	lakh tonnes
Punjab	2.5	lakhtonnes
TOTAL .	19.5	lakh tonnes