

Food Production in Himachal Pradesh1563. **Shri Hem Raj:****Shri From Chand Verma:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Himachal Pradesh Territory is deficit in foodgrains and there has been failure of crops due to want of rains for the last three years;

(b) if so, the quantity of foodgrains that were demanded by it from the Centre; and

(c) the quantity of foodgrains supplied by the Centre to it after the creation of single State Food Zone from April, 1967 onwards till the end of May, 1967?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) There is no set formula to determine whether a State is surplus or deficit in foodgrains. As such, it is difficult to state whether Himachal Pradesh Territory is deficient in foodgrains. There has been deficiency in rainfall in Himachal Pradesh during the last two years and the production of foodgrains has been less than what it was in 1964-65.

(b) In April, 1967, Himachal Pradesh Government asked for 13,771 tonnes of foodgrains per month from the Centre.

(c) The quantity of imported wheat despatched to Himachal Pradesh was a little less than 2,000 tonnes in April and 4,000 tonnes in May. In addition, Punjab has offered to supply 2,000 tonnes each of indigenous wheat and rice to Himachal Pradesh.

Charter Flights for Foreign Tourists1564. **Shri M. R. Krishna:****Shri C. Dass:**

Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the chartered flights for foreign tourists had become popular; and

(b) if so, the reasons for discontinuing them?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) Destination charters of tourist groups to India started operating from late 1966 after the relaxation of restrictions on them. This being the first year of their operation, the idea of charter flights is yet to gain wide popularity.

(b) They have not been discontinued.

Rain Prospects1565. **Shri Nitraj Singh Chaudhary:****Shri Swell:****Dr. Karni Singh:****Shrimati Nirlep Kaur:****Shri Kikar Singh:****Shri Barrow:****Shri Kojal Birsa:**

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

(a) whether Government are aware that American experts apprehend third year of drought this year in India specially in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for ensuring supplies of foodgrains and water to such areas where drought is expected?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Withdrawal of Jeeps from N.E.S. Blocks1566. **Shri K. Lakkappa:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal of the late Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri with respect to the withdrawal of jeeps from N.E.S. blocks has been dropped; and