

radical changes in the system and structure of agricultural education so as to relate it to raising of productivity in agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) Yes. The establishment of Agricultural Universities, at least one in each State is aimed at because of the productivity-oriented system of research and education that is followed at these Universities.

The various recommendations on Agricultural Education made by Education Commission in their report (1964-66) are also under consideration of the Government with the main objective of relating Agricultural Education to raising of productivity in Agriculture.

(b) The distinguishing features of Agricultural Universities, eight of which have already come into existence are given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-540/67]. The main recommendations of the Education Commission (1964-66) relating to Agriculture Education are given in the Statement attached as Annexure II.

Import of III Grade Wheat

1635. Shri C. C. Desai:
Shri E. K. Amin:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat grade-III or powdered wheat which is fit for animal food has also been imported under PL-480;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been investigated; and

(c) the nature of the action taken against the authority responsible for the same?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) It is a fact that some quantities of wheat of grade III have been imported under PL-480 after examination of the wheat for fitness or human consumption in the country. It is, however, not correct to say that Grade III wheat is powdered and fit only for animal food. In fact the Grade III wheat imported was found to have consumer preference in India.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Exorbitant Prices of Gram-Dal

1636. Shri C. C. Desai:
Shri E. K. Amin:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that during the year 1966 gram-dal delivered by Punjab at prices ranging between Rs. 54 to Rs. 58 per quintal were sold at exorbitant prices in the deficit States such as Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madras, the rates being Rs. 80/-, Rs. 100/- and Rs. 128/- respectively;

(b) if so, the action taken by Central Government to prevent such exploitation of consumers as well as of producers of gram-dal?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Prices of Foodgrains

1637. Shri C. C. Desai:
Shri E. K. Amin:

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

(a) the price variations prevailing in different States in the country during the year 1966 and beginning of 1967 of important essential foodgrains; and

(b) the price variations prevailing in two adjoining States such as (a) Gujarat and Maharashtra, (b) Gujarat and Rajasthan, (c) Punjab and Delhi, (d) Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) A statement showing the market prices of important foodgrains in different States during the year 1966 is given in (Annexure I) placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-541/67].

Another statement showing the market prices of these foodgrains during January to April, 1967 is given in (Annexure II) placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-541/67].

(b) The price variations of important foodgrains in different States including those of most of the adjoining States during the year 1966 and beginning of 1967 have been shown in the statements at Annexures I and II placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-541/67].

A statement giving a comparison in prices of important foodgrains in the adjoining group of States during the month of May, 1967 is given in Annexure III placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-541/67].

Drought conditions in Orissa

1638. Shri A. Dipa: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unprecedented drought conditions prevail in certain districts of Orissa, particularly in Boudh and Phulbani subdivision of Phulbani District; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Centre and State Government of Orissa to alleviate the sufferings of the people in these areas?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) As stated in reply to Unstarred Question No. 829 in the Sabha on 30th May, 1967, the total production of foodgrains in 1966-67 in Orissa has been 14.1% below the production in the 'peak' year 1964-65. The yield in respect of medium and late varieties of paddy crops in 1966-67 registered a fall of 36% in Boudh and 20% in Phulbani Sub-Divisions.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Government of Orissa to alleviate the sufferings of the people in the affected areas:—

- (1) Land revenue has been remitted in the areas where the loss is more than 75% and collection of land revenue has been suspended in areas where loss is more than 50% and less than 75%.
- (2) Test relief works have been taken up in the affected areas. All incomplete works taken up during 1966-67 are also being continued.
- (3) Programmes of gratuitous relief have been started in the severely affected areas. Taccavi loans are also being advanced to needy cultivators.
- (4) Drinking water projects like construction of shallow ponds and surface wells, etc. have also been taken up in the affected areas.

बिर्वापुर में गंगा पर पुल

1639. श्री राम स्वयम् :

श्री वि० ना० सिंह :

क्या परिवहन तथा बीजहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार बिर्वापुर जिले में गंगा पर पुल बनाने के बारे में सर्वेक्षण कर रही है और यदि हाँ, तो कहाँ पर; और