

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) It is not correct to say that the rice quantum was reduced in all states except Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) The decision to cut the rice quantum or not was taken by the State Government concerned taking into account the likely availabilities both from internal procurement and from Government of India.

RICE SUPPLY TO JAMMU & KASHMIR

1208. SHRI MAYAVAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Jammu and Kashmir State, there are prospects of a bumper crop this year; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that there will be no need to supply any rice to that State from the Union Government this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) Though no estimate of the production of foodgrains for the current year has yet been received from the Jammu & Kashmir Government, according to present reports, the current kharif crop in the State this year is going to be good.

(b) The Government of Jammu & Kashmir have estimated that they would require 46,000 tonnes rice from the Central Pool during the crop season 1967-68 (16th October, 1967 to 15th October, 1968).

COMMISSION TO ASSESS AGRICULTURE POTENTIAL

1209. SHRI RANDHIR SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an Agricultural Commission to assess agriculture potential and allied matters of our country on the same pattern as Linlithgow Commission of the British days; and

(b) if so, when it will be set up and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) No Sir.

(b) Government's view has been that such a Commission is at present not necessary as it would distract attention from the implementation of the agricultural production programme.

REQUIREMENT OF TRACTORS

1210. SHRI RANDHIR SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made about the number of tractors needed to push up agricultural production and thereby meeting the food shortage in our country; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. It has been assessed that 1,50,000 tractors will be required during the period 1967-68 to 1970-71. The estimated requirement during the current year is 25,000.

SALE OF TRACTORS

1211. SHRI RANDHIR SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applicants for the purchase of tractors on rolls of different tractor selling agencies in the country;

(b) the percentage who got them within three months, six months, a year and two years respectively; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to meet their demands in the shortest possible time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI