

(b) if so, the number of combines sold and their price;

(c) whether combines were imported in the year 1972 and private owners refused to purchase them till 1974;

(d) whether any adverse report have been received by Government regarding their working and they were found faulty and that most of them are lying idle; and

(e) whether it is under consideration of Government to compensate the huge loss suffered by the purchasers of the Combines which are now lying idle?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION, (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH):** (a) and (b) Yes, 24 Russian Combines SKP-4A were sold to the entrepreneurs operating Agro-Service Centres against cash payment at Rs. 1,48,950 exclusive of taxes per Combine.

(c) These Combines were actually received in India in 1974 and not in 1972. The question of any private owners refusing to purchase them from 1972-1974, therefore, does not arise.

(d) A few representations were received in the Ministry reporting certain defects/problems with the machine. The Ministry has no information as to whether most of them are lying idle.

(e) The Ministry is not aware if the entrepreneurs have suffered any losses on account of these machines. Nor does the question of Government compensating them for such losses, if any, arise.

#### **Introduction of Prohibition in Delhi**

**161. SHRI HITENDRA DESAI:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) when is the total prohibition is likely to be introduced in Delhi;

(b) whether it will be introduced in stages; and

(c) if so, how?

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER):** (a) and (b). It is proposed to be introduced in stages so as to take effect from April 1980.

(c) The prohibition policy as announced by the Delhi Administration is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1022/77].

#### **Production of Foodgrains**

**162. SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the final figures of production of foodgrains during 1976-77 and the factors responsible for increased production in areas where improvement has been registered;

(b) the anticipated production during 1977-78; and

(c) the concrete steps taken during last seven months to improve productivity so as to effect a significant break-through towards increased production?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH):** (a) The total production of foodgrains during 1976-77 is placed at 111.57 million tonnes. The increase in foodgrain production during 1976-77 compared to 1975-76 has been recorded by Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana. The increases in production of jowar and bajra in Maharashtra are attributed largely to increases in yield per hectare of these