

sation of foodgrains are not available.

(c) Yes, Sir.

8-year integrated Dairy Development Programme

924. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of the eight-year integrated dairy development programme;

(b) the nature and quantum of assistance by European Economic Community and World Bank; and

(c) the final decision taken with regard to vigorous implementation of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) This is a project on the lines of "Operation Flood—I" and would cover 4 major metropolitan cities, 144 cities with a population of over one lakh (1971 census) and 25 milk shed areas covering 155 districts. This project is an eight-year Integrated dairy Development Programme aimed at increased milk production and marketing.

(b) The project involves an outlay of Rs. 483.49 crores. The EEC is expected to donate 186,000 tonnes of SMP and 114,000 tonnes of butter oil, and the World Bank is expected to provide loans amounting to Rs. 173.00 crores.

(c) The Government of India have approved the project in principle and have authorised the IDC to incur expenditure on pre-programme actions as part of the implementation of the main project. Consultations with the participating States and other agencies involved have also been initiated.

Limits on holding buffer stock and operational stock of foodgrains

925. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what was the actual off-take from Government foodgrains stocks in 1977 and the expected in 1978;

(b) the details of maximum and minimum limits, if any fixed for holding buffer stocks and operational stocks; and

(c) the break-up of average cost involved for holding one tonne each of wheat and rice for one year and the steps taken to economise on these charges?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) During the year 1977 Public Distribution of Foodgrains was of the order of about 11.7 million tonnes. The offtake of foodgrains from the Public Distribution System depends upon a variety of factors such as production and open market availability of foodgrains, the difference between prices of foodgrains in the open market and the prices at which the foodgrains are being released through the Public Distribution System, availability of subsidiary food-stuff, purchasing power of the people and the growth in population. In view of large number of variables, it is difficult to estimate precisely the level of Public Distribution during the year 1978 at this stage.

(b) The Government has decided that the buffer stock of foodgrains should be 12 million tonnes. In addition to that, the operational stocks needed for the maintenance of Public Distribution Systems would be ranging between the lowest figure of 3.5 to 3.8 million tonnes on 1st April to the highest figure of 8.2 to 8.8 million tonnes on 1st July.

(c) The average cost involved for holding buffer stock of wheat and