

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI): (a) to (c). The Food Corporation of India is considering a proposal for direct purchase of foodgrains at 5 of its silos in UP and Punjab, in the forthcoming season. These centres will have arrangements for handling mechanically the stocks brought by farmers and stocks would be weighed, tested for quality and transferred to silos with minimum use of labour. The concerned State Government are being approached to declare the Food Corporation of India Silo premises as purchase centres for wheat. This system will save time and labour and would enable farmers to get their stocks sold with speed.

Functioning of Food Corporation of India

3439. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any steps to ease the workload on the Food Corporation of India (FCI) with a view to improving its functioning; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI): (a) Government and Management of Food Corporation of India keep the working of Food Corporation of India under constant watch to improve its efficiency. At present, no steps are contemplated to reduce its workload.

(b) Does not arise.

Expected Shortfall of Milk in 1990

3440. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports given under the auspices

of Indian Dairy Association in a seminar held recently, wherein it was stated that "by 1990 there will be an annual shortfall of 28 million tonnes of milk in the country";

(b) if so, Government's thinking on this subject and aspect; and

(c) steps proposed to be taken to mitigate and erase this shortfall to come?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Committee regarding Distribution of Essential Commodities

3441. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Standing Committee to ensure the efficient distribution of essential commodities;

(b) whether this Committee would be looking after the public distribution system to cater to the needs of the growing population of Delhi; and

(c) what proposals have been made by the said Standing Committee so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF): (a) to (c). An Advisory Council on Public Distribution has been constituted recently under the chairmanship of Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Civil Supplies. Its task is to review the functioning of the public distribution system and the management of supplies of essential commodities in the country, including Delhi. Its membership includes Food & Civil Supplies Ministers of all States/Union Territories, representatives of concerned Central Ministries and of Central agencies connected with Public Distribution