

(b) whether the fall in the price of Bajra was due to the apathy shown by the 'Quality Inspectors' of the Food Corporation of India to procure them ;

(c) whether complaints have been lodged with Government about the activities of these Inspectors particularly their complicity in the purchase of Bajra ; and

(d) if so, the findings of the enquiry made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Due to late rains in some parts of Rajasthan bajra became discoloured. As the stocks offered were below the prescribed standard, the FCI could not make purchases and consequently the prices of rain affected bajra fell considerably. In the interest of the farmers the specifications were relaxed but even then some stocks did not come up to the relaxed standard. The State Government thereafter decided to purchase below specification bajra @ Rs. 48.00, with the agency of the FCI, on State Government account. The position eased thereafter.

(c) and (d). Some complaints about malpractices by the FCI staff have been received and FCI is taking suitable action. In a specific complaint on purchase from traders instead of purchase from producers at Alwar & Ramgarh an enquiry was conducted. The complaint was also associated with the enquiry. Complicity of the FCI officials was not established.

Assessment of Stock of Foodgrains keeping in view the Influx of Refugees from East Pakistan

559. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether considering the heavy influx of refugees from Bangla Desh, Government have assessed the stock of food-grains in the country to ensure that it would be adequate enough to meet the growing needs ; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to resort to imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes, sir.

(b) While no additional commercial or concessional imports are contemplated specifically to meet the additional requirements of foodgrains as a result of the heavy influx of evacuees from East Pakistan, efforts are being made to obtain some additional food-grains from other countries as aid for feeding the evacuees.

Fall in Capacity Utilization in Durgapur Steel Plant

560. SHRI BISWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working conditions of Durgapur Steel Plant are fast deteriorating and since January 1971 the Plant is producing at 25 to 30 percent of its rated capacity of 1.6 million tonnes ;

(b) whether during 1969-70, the capacity utilization was 50 per cent of its rated capacity ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the fall in capacity utilization ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Production during the period January 1971 to April 1971 was 232,132 tonnes of ingots. This rate of production was about 44% of the rated capacity.

(b) During 1969-70 production was to the extent of 818,000 tonnes of ingots which in relation to rated capacity was about 50%.

(c) The fall in capacity utilisation during the period January 1971 to April 1971 was mainly due to unsatisfactory industrial relations and certain technological constraints.