

in April 1971. In addition, they have now communicated a requirement of 2 lakh tonnes of rice for East Bengal evacuees.

As regards wheat, the monthly demands received from the State Government during the financial year 1970-71 totalled up to 12.45 lakh tonnes. Their demand for April 1971 was 125 th. tonnes and for each of the months of May and June was 135 th. tonnes.

(b) The increased demand for 6.25 lakh tonnes of rice was communicated by the State Government after their Food Minister's discussion with the Union Agriculture Minister on 17.4.1971. The Government of West Bengal have been told that their revised requirement of rice has been noted and that efforts would be made to meet their full reasonable requirements. Adequate stocks of rice are held by FCI on behalf of the Central Government in their godowns in West Bengal. More rice from other States is being moved to these godowns and releases from stocks in these godowns are made to the State Government every month according to their requirements. The State Government's demands for wheat are already being met in full.

#### Damage of Foodgrains by Rats

588. SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news appearing in a section of the Press that there are about, 2,400 million rats—an average of over four rats to a person in the country—and they eat away as much as 2.4 million tonnes of foodgrains annually ; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to stop the eating away of foodgrains either by reducing rat population or by other adequate measures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes Sir. The news item has been noticed by Government.

(b) The Central Government and the State Governments have taken rat control work until the year 1969-70, a scheme to eradicate rats by the use of Rodenticides was being implemented by the Government of India as a Centrally-sponsored scheme through the State Governments, which has been transferred to the State Sector from 1969-70. The various methods of rat control such as trapping, baiting, gassing of burrows are used to control the rat population. The Central Food Department has also intensified the extension work for making improved type of receptacles popular at the farmers' level. Storage of foodgrains is also being modernised by the application of the latest scientific techniques of storage and pest control in order to minimise the damage to foodgrains on account of rats.

#### चीनी मिलों की और गन्ने की मूल्य की बकाया राशि

589. श्री मोहन स्वरूप  
श्री बी० एन० पी० सिंह :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को ज्ञात है कि अप्रैल मास समाप्त होने पर भी उत्तर प्रदेश की चीनी मिलों की ओर गन्ने के मूल्य के रूप में लाखों रुपए की राशि बकाया है जिमका भुगतान उन्होंने रोक लिया है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या सरकार ने उसके कारण जानने का यत्न किया है ; और

(ग) किसानों को गन्ने के मूल्य की बकाया राशि दिलाने के लिए क्या प्रभावी कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शेर सिंह) :

(क) 1970-71 में 30 अप्रैल 1971 तक खरीदे गए गन्ने के मूल्य के 9257.82 लाख रुपयों में से उस तारीख तक 7282.41 लाख रुपए का भुगतान गन्ना उत्पादकों को कर दिया गया था और