

Decade was a disappointing one for the developing countries in this sector which is so important for their overall progress. According to FAO's preliminary index figures, production in the developing countries rose by only 1 to 2 per cent in 1971.

Trends in crop and livestock production in different regions varied considerably in 1971. Preliminary data indicate that production fell slightly in Latin America largely because of adverse weather conditions in Argentina and Cuba. In the Near East region, the preliminary 1971 index of total agricultural production shows an increase of 3 per cent over 1970. In developing countries of Africa, agricultural and food production rose by 4 per cent in 1971. In the Far East region, agricultural production in developing countries rose by 2 per cent in 1971 against the 4 per cent annual increase recorded during the previous two years. The low rate was due to crop losses which occurred in a number of countries from adverse weather conditions, war and other factors. As regards India, the F.A.O. document indicates that, "although India again had a good crop year, its growth rate was lower."

(c) The question does not arise in regard to observations on trade made for the countries of the Far East as a whole. As regards agricultural production, according to the All-India final estimates of area and production for 1971-72, production during this year was lower than that in the previous year in the case of food-grains, oilseeds and sugarcane and higher in the case of cotton, jute and tobacco.

Items distributed through Fair Price Shops in India

1982. SHRI D. K. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the items distributed

through the fair price shops in each State and the quantum of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAREB P. SHINDE): Wheat, rice and coarse grains are being issued to the State Governments for release through the public distribution system through a network of about 1,58,000 fair price shops. Levy sugar and a limited quantity of edible oils and pulses is also being distributed through these shops. In certain States/Territories, wheat products, such as atta, suji and maida have also been started to be issued through fair price shops.

As regards the quantum, this varies from State to State, depending on the demand and availability of these items and several other factors.

Import of edible oil to meet shortage

1940. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:
SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD
VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to import edible oils to meet their shortage; and

(b) if so, the total quantity of edible oils to be imported and the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir—as and when considered necessary.

(b) For the present, 50,000 tonnes of edible oil (or equivalent in seed) valued at about Rs. 10 crores are being imported on commercial basis, in addition to 100,000 tonnes of rapeseed from Canada under an aid programme.