

- (2) A representative of National Committee on Science and Technology. Member
- (3) A representative of Central Road Research Institute. Member
- (4) Chief Engineers of two States. Members
- (5) A representative of the Transport Division of the Planning Commission. Member

The Committee will be serviced by a whole-time Secretary.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Reasons for fall in price of Foodgrains

7795. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:
SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of foodgrains have started falling in various States;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for this fall; and

(c) whether this fall is due to the increasing production of foodgrains or taking over of foodgrains trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) Prices of some of the important cereals, particularly wheat, gram and maize have started falling in some States.

(b) and (c). The fall in prices is due to a number of factors viz., commencement of arrivals of the new crop in the market, expected promising harvest of wheat, unloading of the stocks of foodgrains by trade, take-over of wholesale trade and the ceiling fixed for the stocks to be held by the retailers.

Opposition by All India Farmers' Federation to take over Foodgrains trade

7796. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

SHRI P. GANGADEB:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Farmer's Federation had decided not to cooperate with the Government on the takeover of the foodgrains trade;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether the Federation has imposed certain conditions for taking over the foodgrains trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) to (c). A report appearing in the newspaper about the All India Farmer's Federation launching a movement against the scheme for the take over of wholesale trade in wheat and persuading the farmers not to sell their produce to Government unless the procurement price was raised, has come to the notice of Government. The Government is determined to implement the policy of takeover of wholesale trade. The procurement price for wheat which was announced earlier at Rs. 76/- per quintal will continue to remain in force for the current rabi season. However, in the context of the take-over of wholesale trade Government has decided to fix the procurement price at Rs. 82/- per quintal for certain superior varieties of wheat during the current rabi season.

Request from National Seeds Corporation for pre-release Multiplication Programme

7797. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Seeds Corporation has requested the Government