

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

number of such corrupt dealers of fertilisers arrested, and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SINDE): (a) Out of 43.61 lakh tonnes of wheat procured upto 14th August, 1973, the procurement by the FCI and its agencies is 1121 lakh tonnes. The FCI have not appointed any private individuals/concerns as its agents for procurement. Some quantities have, however, been procured through co-operatives

(b) the steps taken by the Government for distribution of fertilisers in the scarcity area?

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) Food production is dependent on a number of factors such as rain-fall, irrigation, availability of the proper inputs, crop management etc. Fertiliser is one of the variables that affect agricultural production. During Kharif 73 season some constraint in the availability of fertilisers has been experienced in some parts of the country. However, to the extent that certain areas are faced with the shortage of fertilisers other things being given, the agricultural production in these areas would not be the same as it would have been, if adequate quantities of fertilisers were also available in these areas

Estimate of Rice Production in the country

3748 SHRI SAMAR GUHA Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the estimated production of rice all over the country during the next crop?

(b) Due to shortage of fertiliser some reports of black marketing in fertilisers from some States have been received

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) It is too early to give an idea of the size of the rice crop during 1973-74. Weather so far in most rice producing States has been generally favourable for the crop, however, much will depend on the behaviour of rainfall in the remaining part of the season

(c) State Governments have been given adequate powers under the Fertilisers (Control) Order, 1957 and the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to prosecute black marketeers in fertilisers. Recently the Government of India, for effecting expeditious prosecution of offenders, have authorised the State Governments to carry out summary trials for offenders under the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1957. Since 1st January, 1973, 8 cases of prosecution of offenders for black marketing have been reported. In two cases, offenders have been convicted by the Courts. Further, in a number of cases, certificate of registration of dealers has been suspended pending enquiry against these dealers

Inadequate Distribution of Fertiliser and its effect on Food Production

3749 SHRI SAMAR GUHA Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether food production is suffering for want of adequate distribution of fertilisers;

(b) whether due to shortage of fertilisers, widespread black market have been reported.

(c) if so, the steps taken against such black marketeering and the num-

(d) A number of steps have been taken by the Government of India, to meet the needs of fertilisers of the States facing shortages.

- (i) Efforts are being made to import as much quantities of fertilisers as possible and supply these to the States.
- (ii) Attempts are being made to improve the production performance of the domestic units, manufacturing fertilisers.
- (iii) Steps have also been taken to improve and rationalise the distribution system by removing bottlenecks in movement and by making the manufacturers to sell as much quantity as possible, through co-operatives and State agencies.

Increase in Quality of Rice Allotment to West Bengal

3750. DR. RANAN SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cut in rice quota in statutory rationing areas of West Bengal is likely to be extended to modified rationing areas also; and

(b) if so, whether Centre are taking any steps to increase the quantum of rice allotment to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). There has been no cut in the rice quota in the modified rationing areas of West Bengal. Keeping in view the overall availability of rice in the Central pool and the needs of other deficit States, maximum possible allotments are being made to the State Government for meeting their reasonable requirements.

WHO Programme of Research Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction at A.I.I.M.S.

3752. DR. RANAN SEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation has selected the All India Institute of Medical Sciences as one of six Institutions for its expanded programme of research development and research training in human reproduction; and

(b) if so, the assistance expected to be provided by the WHO in this connection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): (a) Yes. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences is one of the four institutions selected for this purpose.

(b) It is expected that s 2,00,000 will be provided by the WHO in the first year.

Mysore for Higher Procurement Price for Paddy

3753. SHRI C. K. JAFFER
SHARIFF:

SHRI D. B. CHANDRA
GOWDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ever since the Centre approved the proposal of the Agricultural Prices Commission for fixing the procurement price of paddy at ranges between Rs. 62 and Rs. 70 per quintal, Mysore has been pleading for a higher price; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). It is true that in the Conference of Chief Ministers held in June, 1973 to consider the Kharif Price Policy for 1973-74, the Chief Minister of Mysore had asked for a higher price for paddy.

The suggestion will be kept in view while fixing the procurement prices at the beginning of the harvesting season.