

steady. The winter rains in several parts of North India have proved beneficial to Rabi crops and if weather conditions are favourable in the remaining part of the season, rabi production may be expected to register a substantial increase this year.

(c): The All India index number of wholesale price of food grains (Base: 1961-62=100) declined by 7.8 per cent from 440.3 at the end of September, 1974 to 406.1 at the end of December, 1974. The All India average consumer price index number of food (Base: 1960-100) for industrial workers declined by 1.3 per cent from 382 in September, 1974 to 377 in November, 1974 (latest available so far).

(d) and (e). Government are aware of the observations of the Reserve Bank of India and are keeping a close watch on the situations.

Demand and Production of Vanaspati

912. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

SHRIMATI ROZA
DESHPANDE:

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) total demand and production of Vanaspati in the country, month-wise, from March, 1974 to January, 1975;

(b) retail controlled price of this commodity region-wise and month-wise from March 1974 to January,

1975; and whether it has been alleged that Vanaspati is not available at controlled price in the open market;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that statutory price control on this commodity has recently been lifted; and

(e) if so, on what grounds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) the demand for vanaspati in the country during the period March, 1974 to January, 1975 is estimated at 42,000 tonnes per month. The production during this period was as shown below:—

Month	Production (tonnes)
March 1974	42,229
April, 1974	40,430
May, 1974	35,152
June, 1974	17,748
July, 1974	25,494
August, 1974	18,340
September, 1974	14,080
October, 1974	21,255
November, 1974	31,152
December, 1974	29,926
January, 1975	38,604

(b) and (c). The retail prices of vanaspati in the different zones, exclusive of sales tax, during the period March, 1974 to January, 1975, as notified by the Government, were as shown below:

(Rupees)

Period	Size of pack	North zone	South zone	East zone	West zone (other than Gujarat)	West zone (Gujarat)
March 1	16.5 kg	129.96	128.07	130.52	129.61	128.62
June 14	4.0 Kg	34.09	33.63	34.23	34.01	33.77
	2.0 kg	17.71	17.48	17.77	17.66	17.54
	Loose per kg.	7.86	7.74	7.89	7.84	7.78
June 15	16.5 kg	160.49	160.25	160.82	161.78	158.32
Jan. 4	4.0 kg	42.03	41.98	43.57	42.34	41.50
	2.0 kg	21.85	21.82	22.62	22.01	21.59
	Loose per kg.	9.71	9.69	10.09	9.79	9.58

(d) and (e). Control on prices of vanaspati was lifted with effect from the 5th January, 1975. This decision followed a marked improvement in the supply position of vanaspati and the assurances given by the Vanaspati Manufacturers' Association of India on behalf of the industry, to improve production and to take steps to ensure that the prices charged by the factories will be kept under check.

Production, Procurement, Release and Stocks of Foodgrains, Cereals and Pulses

913 SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the final estimate of production of foodgrains, cereals and pulses separately, for 1973-74;

(b) estimated production during 1974-75;

(c) target of procurement and actual achievement, State-wise, during 1973 and 1974,

(d) average monthly release of foodgrains through public distribution system during 1973 and 1974;

(e) total stock with the Central and State Governments as at the end of 1973 and 1974;

(f) number and percentage of population served by (i) Statutory and (ii) modified rationing system as at the end of 1973 and 1974?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P SHINDE) (a) All-India final estimates of production of cereals, pulses and total foodgrains, 1973-74 are indicated below:—

Crop	Production (Million tonnes)
Cereals	93.86
Pulses	9.75
Total foodgrains	103.61