

Import of Foodgrains from U.S.A.

487 SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) how much import of food grains will be necessary for the current year; and

(b) whether we have already entered into an agreement with U.S.A. for importing foodgrains this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) The Government of India keeps under constant review the position regarding the need for food-grain imports and makes purchases from abroad to the extent considered necessary after taking into account crop prospects internal availability, gap between internal availability and the requirement of the public distribution system, the need to create a reasonable size of buffer stock, foreign exchange resources, price trend in international market and other related factors. It is not possible at this stage nor is it desirable in public interest to indicate the total quantity that may have to be imported during 1976.

(b) No, Sir.

Completion of Rajasthan, Western Koshi and Gandak Canal Projects

488. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to the earliest completion of the Rajasthan, Western Koshi and Gandak canal projects;

(b) whether a suggestion for shifting the proposed alignment of Western Koshi Canal further north i.e. through the weir on river Kamala near Jayanagar has been examined; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereon.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDARNATH SINGH): (a) State-I of Rajasthan Canal Project would be substantially completed by 1976-77, except for lining of distribution system which would continue for next three years. The works on State-II of the project have just been taken up. The schedule for its completion is yet to be drawn up by the State Government. The project is likely to be completed in Sixth Plan subject to availability of funds.

Gandak Project in Uttar Pradesh is likely to be completed by the end of Fifth Plan. As for Gandak Project in Bihar, the Barrage, Eastern Main Canal upto RD 704, Saran Canal, branches and sub branches of Tirthut and Saran Canal Systems are almost complete. Work is in progress on the distributaries, minors and water courses. These works are expected to be completed by 1980-81.

The Western Kosi Canal Project in the Nepal portion is expected to be completed in 1978-79. Works on 37 km of the canal in Indian portion have been taken up and are in initial stages. As per programme drawn up by the State Government, works on canal system upto Kamle Balan crossing are to be completed by end of Fifth Plan.

(b) and (c). The proposal for shifting of Canal has been examined by the State Government and this has