

## SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO GUJARAT

324. SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of foodgrain demanded by the Gujarat Government from the Centre during the months of August, September and October, 1967;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains supplied by the Central Government to the State of Gujarat during the above period; and

(c) the main reasons for short supply of the Central food aid to the State of Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) 405,000 tonnes.

(b) About 185,000 tonnes.

(c) Non-availability of sufficient foodgrains with the Centre to meet in full all the demands of all the States. The foodgrains available to the Centre are, however, distributed as equitably as possible to the deficit States.

## U.S. GIFT PARCELS OF TOBACCO FOR INDIA

325. SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government requested the U.S. Government to instruct their Post Offices to stop accepting Gift Parcels containing Tobacco addressed to India; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) No. Gift Parcels containing Tobacco from USA can be imported into India provided the CIF (Cost Insurance Freight) value of tobacco imported at any one time does not exceed Rs. 160.

(b) Does not arise.

## LODGING IN CEREAL CROP

326. SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has revealed that lodging in cereal crop plants causes an yearly loss of between 20 and 60 per cent of foodgrains production in the country;

(b) the factors which contribute to lodging; and

(c) the steps which are being taken by Government to minimise the loss on each of these accounts in the light of the Council's study.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Studies of a number of agricultural scientists in India and abroad indicate that the decrease of yield in cereals may amount to 10 to over 60 per cent according to degree of lodging.

(b) The chief conditions which bring about lodging are :

(i) High doses of nitrogenous fertilizers and high seed rates which reduce the strength of the straw due to internal changes in chemical composition and structure of cells, particularly if the variety is tall in stature.

(ii) Increase in wetness of soil brought about by irrigation or rain, followed by high winds.

(c) Researches have revealed that :—

(i) Small doses of nitrogenous fertilizers applied at intervals during the growth of the crop reduce lodging to some extent.

(ii) Varieties possessing greater strength of straw and high proportion of straw-strength to weight of ear, a high root weight/shoot weight ratio, or a combination of these three attributes, make a variety relatively more resistant to lodging. However, under heavy rains accompanied