

MOVEMENT OF FOODGRAINS FROM PUNJAB, HARYANA AND RAJASTHAN.

3137. **SHRI D. N. PATODIA :**
SHRI HIMATSINGKA :
SHRI N. K. SANGHI :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a danger of damage being caused to huge stocks of kabli gram in Punjab and barley in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan as a result of the existing restrictions on the movement of foodgrains from one part of the country to another;

(b) whether it is also a fact that while these commodities are lying unsoled in Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana, people in other States are paying price nearly three times higher than the one prevailing in these States; and

(c) if so, whether Government have considered the feasibility of relaxing or lifting existing curbs on the movement of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). There is no danger of damage being caused to the stocks of kabli gram and barley in Punjab and Rajasthan. Although some accumulation of stocks in Haryana has been reported, Food Corporation of India has undertaken the work of procurement. It is not correct to say that the prices of gram and barley in other States are nearly three times higher than the one prevailing in these States.

(c) The question of relaxation or otherwise of the existing restriction on the movement of foodgrains will be considered in the next Chief Ministers' Conference to be held during this month.

DESERT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

3138. **SHRI D. N. PATODIA :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the activities of the Desert Development Board during 1967-68;

(b) the works undertaken by the Board in Rajasthan during the above period;

(c) whether the targets for 1966-67 in so

far as Rajasthan is concerned were fully achieved; and

(d) if not, the shortfalls and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (d). Though the Desert Development Board was constituted through Government Resolution dated the 18th June, 1966, it started functioning effectively only with effect from the 14th November, 1967 when the Director joined. During 1967-68, it had been decided to take up work on a pilot basis in one C.D. Block in each of the three States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana. These blocks were as follows :

(i) Luni Block in Jodhpur district in Rajasthan.

(ii) Mohindergarh II Block in Mohindergarh district in Haryana.

(iii) Santalpur area in Banaskantha district in Gujarat.

It was proposed to carry out scientific surveys of the resources of these Blocks with a view to prepare detailed project reports for them for implementation during 68-69. However, the Desert Development Board at its first meeting held on the 25th January, 1968 considered the programme to be taken up for the development of the desert areas and decided to give up the block approach altogether. It recommended that if a particular activity was considered to be worth taking up, it need not be confined to the limit of one block in each State as had been the thinking so far. Accordingly detailed schemes are now being prepared by the State Governments of Rajasthan, Gujarat & Haryana in regard to the programmes to be taken up for execution during 68-69 on the basis of the activities considered most suitable in the circumstances prevailing in each of these States.

PROCUREMENT OF CHILLIES BY FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

3139. **SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :**
SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :
SHRI NAMBIAR :
SHRI K. M. ABRAHAM :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food