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- (j) Self indicating weighting scales. }
 (k) Adrema printing machine }
 (l) Numbering machines }
 (m) Battery driven trucks
 (n) Conveyors

Standards have been laid down for their large scale introduction.

Three trucks required for experimental purposes are being imported from abroad.

A conveyor system has been successfully installed at Delhi Air Sorting Office. Schemes to extend the use of conveyors progressively for the handling of mails in the larger offices are under consideration.

Incentive for Research in Agriculture

*622. **Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah**: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has taken a decision to award the Rafi Ahmad Kidwai Memorial Prizes to those who have outstanding research in the field of agriculture and allied subjects; and

(b) if so, whether agricultural extension has been included in the list?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

Export of Sugar

*627. { **Shri Yashpal Singh**;
Shri Bade;
Shri R. Barua;

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of sugar to be exported during the current financial year in respect of which agreements have already been entered into; and

(b) whether in view of the shortage of sugar in the country, precautions will be taken to export less sugar?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Contracts for export of 2.00 lakh tonnes of sugar

have so far been signed for export during 1964.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Special Jet Allowance

*628. { **Shri P. C. Borooah**;
Shri Indrajit Gupta;
Shri Maheswar Naik;
Shri S. C. Samanta;
Shri P. R. Chakraverti;

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Commercial Pilots' Association had recently demanded grant of special jet allowance to those pilots who fly the jets and;

(b) if so, Government's decision thereon?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Mohiuddin):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of meetings were held between the Management of the Indian Airlines and representatives of the Indian Commercial Pilots' Association as a result of which a settlement has been reached and also approved by the Board of the Corporation at their meeting held on 12th March, 1964. Formal proposals in this regard from the Corporation are awaited by the Government.

Loans to Agriculturists

*629. { **Shri Maheswar Naik**;
Shri D. C. Sharma;

Will the Minister of Community

Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the short and medium term loans for agricultural development to be advanced through the co-operative societies during the Third Five Year Plan period are proposed to be drastically slashed; and

(b) if so, to what extent, the reasons therefor and the manner in which the requirements for the said purpose are proposed to be met during the said period?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) and (b). Against a target of Rs. 512 crores set up by the State Governments for the supply of short and medium term credit during the last year of the Third Five Year Plan, the co-operatives supplied Rs. 228 crores in 1961-62. The provisional figures for 1962-63 are Rs. 256 crores and the estimate for 1963-64 is Rs. 318 crores. The progress is not upto the expectations and the target is unlikely to be reached.

The reasons are (a) weakness of the credit structure particularly at the primary level (b) organisational deficiencies (c) increasing trend of overdue (d) defective loaning policies etc. A detailed action programme for removing these deficiencies has been drawn up and circulated to State Governments. It is expected that when the programme is implemented there will be appreciable progress.

Import of Rice

*630. { **Shri Inder J. Malhotra:**
Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total imports of rice made so far during 1963-64;

(b) the names of countries from which it was imported; and

(c) the total amount of foreign exchange spent?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) 4,73,948 metric tons during the period of 1st April, 1963 to 29th February, 1964.

(b) U.S.A., Burma and Republic of Vietnam.

(c) Rice from U.S.A. was imported under P.L. 480 against rupee payment. The foreign exchange paid towards freight of this rice was about Rs. 107 lakhs. From other countries rice was imported against foreign exchange amounting to about Rs. 787 lakhs.

दावतों में निमंत्रित व्यक्तियों की संख्या सीमित करना

६३१. { श्री श्रीकार लाल बरवा :
श्री राम सहाय पाण्डेय :

क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मन्त्री यह बताते की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्र सरकार ने राज्य सरकारों को सलाह दी है कि दावतों तथा समारोहों में भाजन करने के लिए आमन्त्रित अतिथियों की संख्या सीमित करें;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस सम्बन्ध में क्या सीमा निश्चित करने का विचार है; और

(ग) क्या यह निर्णय संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों में भी लागू होगा ?

खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अ० म० धामस): (क) से (ग). भोज और पार्टियों में मितव्ययिता के उपाय लागू करने तथा ऐसे उत्सवों में आमन्त्रित व्यक्तियों जिन्हें भोजन खिलाया जाना है, की संख्या सीमित करने के प्रश्न पर राज्यों के खाद्य मन्त्रियों की २३ फरवरी १९६४ को हुई बैठक में विचार-विमर्श किया गया था। केन्द्रीय खाद्य तथा कृषि मन्त्री ने राज्यों तथा संघीय क्षेत्रों के प्रतिनिधियों से अपील की कि वे इस विषय पर विचार करें तथा अपने अपने