

Rice Production in West Bengal

249. { Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shrimati Akkamma Devi:
Shri N. P. Yadab:
Shri Yamuna Prasad
Mandal:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that current stock position and harvest reports indicate that West Bengal will face an overall deficit of about 10 lakh tons of rice this year;

(b) whether the State Government have requested the Central Government to help with additional supply of 300 tons of rice in excess of promised amount of one lakh ton;

(c) whether it is a fact that the maximum selling price of paddy and rice has been fixed with a view to stabilising the markets; and

(d) whether most of the rice mills in West Bengal have stopped working because of the alleged non-availability of paddy at Government controlled price?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a). The Government of Bengal have recently estimated the deficit of cereals at 15 lakh tonnes.

(b) Based on that estimate a quantity of 4 lakh tonnes of rice has been asked for by the West Bengal Government in addition to the promised quantity of one lakh tonnes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government of India have received reports that some rice mills in West Bengal are not getting adequate supplies of paddy.

Central Mechanised Farm at Jetsar

250. { Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Mohsin:
Shri D. J. Naik:
Shri Mohan Swarup:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

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

(a) whether a contract for the supply of Soviet agricultural machinery for the Jetsar Central Mechanised Farm in Rajasthan was signed in New Delhi on the 7th May, 1964 between India and U.S.S.R.;

(b) the total cost of machinery and equipment to be imported from U.S.S.R. for the farm; and

(c) the estimated production of crops and fodder of the proposed farm at the initial stage?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 23.45 lakhs.

(c) Crops—1.28 lakh mds. per year
Fodder—1 lakh mds. per year.

Rice and Paddy Control Order

251. { Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Yamuna Prasad Mandal:
Shri N. P. Yadab:
Shrimati Akkamma Devi:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government have suspended operation of the Rice and Paddy Control Order in view of the ruling by the Calcutta High Court;

(b) whether any other State had to face the same situation; and

(c) what further steps have been taken to enforce some regulating provisions on the dealers, so as to stop