

TURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE): (a) Superior Basmati rice is being exported since 1962. The annual export so far has been between 2,000 to 5,000 tonnes.

(b) The firm estimates of production of rice during 1967-68 are expected to become available only by April, 1968; but indications are that the present rice crop is better than the one in the previous year.

The demand in the country for any particular foodgrain is quite elastic depending upon a number of factors which include the availability of the particular grain, the availability of substitute foods and comparative prices for the various foodgrains. In the absence of a scientific consumption survey, it is not possible to quantify the total demand of foodgrains in general in the country, let alone the demand for any particular grain. Further all the grain produced in the country does not become available for consumption as some part of it is kept back for seed, feed etc. and also some portion is kept back in bulding up of stocks with the producers and with the trade. Therefore, the comparison between the production and demand of rice in the country as contemplated in the question is not possible.

(c) The total quantity of rice imported during the year 1967-68 (April to January 1968) was 3,96,600 metric tons.

(d) Export of very small quantities of Superior Basmati rice cannot have any significant effect on the supply position in the country. In any case, much larger quantities of coarse rice, which is widely consumed, is being imported at comparatively much lower prices than the price fetched by the Superior Basmati rice.

FOOD SUPPLY TO RAJASTHAN

537. SHRI D. N. PATODIA: Will the

Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a critical food situation has arisen in Rajasthan State as a result of the non-fulfilment of a request from the State Government to raise the food quota for the State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government has urged the Central Government to raise its monthly quota of wheat to 20,000 tonnes and sugar to 4,800 tonnes;

(c) whether the back-log of supply of wheat during January-June, 1967 is 24,400 tonnes; and

(d) if so, whether Government have considered the request of the State Government to augment the quota of food supply and whether the back-log of supply of wheat to the State has been fully cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASHIB SHINDE): (a): No, Sir.

(b) The Rajasthan Government have requested for raising their monthly wheat quota to 20,000 tonnes and of levy sugar to 4,300 tonnes.

(c) No, Sir. The back-log is of the order of 17,000 tonnes.

(d) The food supply position in Rajasthan is not such as to require just now, either the augmenting of the quota or the supply of the back-log.

PRODUCTION OF HYBRID SEEDS

538. SHRI D. N. PATODIA:
SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR:

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

(a) whether with a view to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains, Government have formulated any Statewise scheme for largescale production of hybrid seeds in the country;