

(b) if so, the target fixed for production for 1968-69; and

(c) the details of the scheme for Rajasthan State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) Under the new strategy for achieving a rapid "break-through" in agricultural production, a High Yielding Varieties Programme was launched from 1966-67. This programme includes the high-yielding varieties of wheat and paddy and hybrids of jowar, maize and bajra. The target for 1970-71 is 32.5 million acres, of which 12 million acres for maize, jowar and bajra. Targets for each year are finalized in advance for making arrangements for inputs, e.g., seeds, fertilizers. State Governments are themselves responsible for organizing their seed production to meet the requirements of approved programmes. The National Seeds Corporation supplies the foundation seeds. Short-falls, if any, are met by organizing special seed production programmes through the National Seeds Corporation Ltd. or by diversion of supplies from surplus States.

(b) The targets of coverage under various hybrids envisaged under the High-Yielding Varieties Programme during 1968-69 are 7.5 million acres and arrangements are in hand to meet the seed requirements for this target.

(c) The targets of coverage under hybrid crops during 1968-69 and the

quantities of seeds required for achieving these targets in Rajasthan State are as under:—

	Target of coverage during 1968-69	Quantity of seeds required (in tonnes)
Hybrid Maize	85,000 acres	510.00
Hybrid Sorghum	25,000 acres	100.00
Hybrid Bajra	5,00,000 acres	625.00

CONVERSION FROM COMMERCIAL TO FOOD PRODUCTION

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

(a) whether it is a fact that with the narrowing down of the profitability of raising food and commercial crops, there is now a tendency to convert the areas raising commercial crops into food crops;

(b) the extent to which the above tendency has been noticed in regard to jute, cotton ground-nut, and tobacco crops; and

(c) the extent of conversion effected so far in respect of above crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) to (c). Separate data regarding areas of land diverted from foodgrains to cash crops and vice-versa are not available. The estimates of area under foodgrains and selected cash crops during the three years 1964-65 to 1966-67 are given below:

All-India area under foodgrains and cash crops during 1964-65 to 1966-67.

(‘000’ hectares)

Crop	1964-65 (P)	1965-66 (P)	1966-67 (F)
Total foodgrains	117,533	113,174	116,465
Cash Crops :			
Jute	839	757	798
Cotton	8,271	7,942	7,834
Groundnut	7,216	7,428	7,251
Tobacco	394	372	398
Other cash crops*	12,352	12,111	11,747
TOTAL—Cash crops	29,072	28,610	28,028

(P) Partially revised estimates.

(F) Final Estimates.

*Includes castorseed, sesamum, rasan hemp, Potato, sugarcane, black turmeric.

peaseed and mustard, linseed, mesta, pepper, dry chillies, dry ginger and

The above figures show that in 1966-67 the area under both foodgrains and all cash crops taken together was lower than the respective levels in 1964-65. In any year, the acreages under different crops vary under the influence of various factors like weather, farmers' expectation about prices, etc. Comprehensive data on cost of production of foodgrains and commercial crops over a period of time are not available to indicate changes in their relative profitabilities.

COST OF SUGAR AND WHEAT

540. SHRI Y. A. PRASAD:
SHRI DEBABRATA BARUA:
SHRI D. N. DEB:
SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of wheat and sugar have gone up during the last two months;

(b) if so, the extent of rise in prices; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) No, Sir. The market prices of wheat showed a substantial fall in the month of December, 1967. In the month of January 1968, however, there had been a rise in the first three weeks but thereafter there has been a downward tendency in the prices.

The levy prices of sugar have remained unaltered since the introduction of partial decontrol in November, 1967. The open market prices of sugar have fallen substantially as compared with the prices that prevailed immediately after the partial decontrol.

(b) A statement showing the week-end wholesale market prices of wheat

from October, 1967 onwards at certain important centres of wheat producing States is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-77/68].

(c) Does not arise. The rise in wheat prices in January was on account of normal market fluctuations, lean period of the season and increase in the issue prices of foodgrains distributed through ration Fair price shops etc.

SCARCITY AREAS

541. SHRI Y. A. PRASAD:
SHRI D. N. DEB:

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

(a) the States which have declared scarcity areas due to failure of the last kharif crops; and

(b) the Central assistance proposed to be given for these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) All the State Governments were requested to intimate the areas declared by them as scarcity areas as a result of failure of the last kharif crops. The Governments of Assam, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Kerala and Gujarat have replied that no areas have been declared as scarcity areas. The Governments of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Mysore have stated that drought conditions have developed in some areas due to failure of rains. The Government of Orissa have stated that though there has been partial failure of kharif paddy crops in some districts, no area in the State has been declared as scarcity area. Two districts of Uttar Pradesh are reported to have been affected by floods and drought. A few pockets in one of the districts of Bihar are also reported to have been affected by drought. Information from the