

MENT, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Against the total arrivals of about 42.5 thousands tonnes of maize in different mandies of Jullundur district during the period from 1st October, 1967 to end January, 1968, the Food Corporation of India purchased about 36.2 thousand tonnes which comes to over 85 per cent of the gross arrivals. The balance about 15 per cent was purchased by trade for local consumption. The average price paid by the Corporation for this maize varies from Rs. 55.50 to Rs. 56.40 per quintal.

(c) It is not possible to anticipate whether the farmers will reduce the acreage for maize cultivation during the next season.

(d) In view of reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question, the question of taking remedial steps by Government does not arise.

SUGAR PRODUCTION

547. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report that sugar production may be increased by 6 per cent if a new technique of processing sugarcane devised by Prof. Bopardikar, Director of the Central Public Health Engineering Institute is adopted by the country's sugar industries;

(b) whether such new technique may also make it possible to isolate the potash content from the raw material; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to implement Prof. Bopardikar's technique which may turn out to be an "important Import substitution Project"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOP-

MENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Certain pilot scale trials based on ion-exchange techniques (Prof. Bopardikar's technique involves ion-exchange-on-exclusion) are being carried on in the National Sugar Institute, Kanpur. The results of these experiments are being watched.

FOOD IMPORTS UNDER PL 480

548. SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI BASWANT:

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

(a) the quantity of wheat which India has purchased so far under the new PL 480 agreement signed in December, 1967;

(b) whether it is a fact that under this agreement which provided for the supply of all the grain by end of June this year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture still has to issue purchase authorisation; and

(c) if so, whether Government have studied the implications of such delay and its effect on food situation in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) and (b). The P.L. 480 Agreement dated the 30th December, 1967 provides for the supply of 30 lakh tonnes of wheat and five lakh tonnes of milo upto the end of the current U.S. Fiscal Year i.e. upto the 30th June, 1968. According to the information received so far, the U.S. Government have issued purchase Authorisations for 18 lakh tonnes of wheat and 3.1 lakh tonnes of milo. About 17 lakh tonnes of wheat and 2 lakh tonnes of milo have already been purchased upto the 1st of February, 1968. Since the supply is to be completed by the end of June, 1968 there is still sufficient time for the