

ture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has proposed to the Government of Japan for their help in transporting food to India to combat famine;

(b) if so, the nature of the proposal put forward; and

(c) the reaction of the Government of Japan thereto?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) to (c). In the context of the difficult food situation, assistance was sought from Japan, as from several other friendly countries. It was indicated that specific items on which assistance would be most welcome were:

- (a) Gifts of wheat, rice and milo;
- (b) Longterm credit for food-grains and fertilizers;
- (c) Monetary assistance for meeting freight for increased food imports;
- (d) Other foodstuffs, especially milk powder, milk products, edible oil etc; and
- (e) assistance in transporting food consignments from other countries.

No definite offer of assistance has yet been received in response to the above request.

#### State Controlled Agricultural Farm in Tripura

1758. Shri Biren Dutta: Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) the acres of land brought under the State-controlled Agricultural farm in Tripura;

(b) the number of labourers working on it;

(c) the quantum of crop expected from it by the next agricultural season; and

(d) the basis of payment to the workers?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) to (d). The required information is being collected from the Tripura Government and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as it is received from them.

#### Flour Mills in Kerala

1759. Shri Mohammed Koya: Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Flour Mills at present in Kerala;

(b) whether wheat is given to all the mills to enable them to work to their full capacity; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shinde): (a) The number of Roller Flour Mills in Kerala at present is three.

(b) and (c). Wheat is being allotted to all the Roller Flour Mills in Kerala to the full extent of their permitted capacity as recognised by Government.

#### Supply of Wheat Flour

1760. Shri Mohammed Koya: Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to

his notice that more wheat will be consumed in Kerala if it is distributed in the form of Atta; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to distribute wheat flour packets through ration-shops and how far it has been successful?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shinde):** (a) and (b). No appreciable increase in consumption of wheat is expected even if it is distributed in the form of atta. State Government are, however, selling maida and sooji to bulk consumers and in retail through Cooperative Societies, packed in polythene bags of ones kilo. Such retail distribution is in force in Trivandrum, Kottayam, Ernakulam and Palghat district headquarters. House delivery is also being effected in selected centres. This arrangement is proving popular and the scheme has been extended to Alleppey district from 1st March, 1966. The other centres will also be taken up by State Government on phased programme.

#### **Development of Irrigation and Agriculture**

**1761. Shri Mohammed Koya:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted an interim plan for effecting improvement in the irrigation and agricultural schemes of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the plan has been approved?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra):** (a) to (c). Apart from the Five Year Plans, no separate interim plan for effecting improvement in the irrigation and agricultural schemes of the State has been received from the Government

of Kerala. However, in response to certain proposals for additional outlay in 1955-56 received from the Government of Kerala, an amount of Rs. 178 lakhs, comprising Rs. 110 lakhs for major and medium irrigation and Rs. 68 lakhs for agricultural schemes (including soil conservation, forestry and fisheries) was sanctioned in June, 1965 over and above the approved outlays for the Annual Plan for 1965-66. An additional allocation of Rs. 30 lakhs was also sanctioned to the State Government for minor irrigation schemes in May, 1965.

Further, in response to the Central Government's proposals for Emergency Food Production Drive, the Government of Kerala drew up a scheme which contemplated a three pronged drive, comprising (i) quick on-the-spot assistance to solve the farmers' practical field problems, (ii) exploration of new avenues of production, and (iii) ensuring of collective participation in a common project of agricultural production. Additional programmes for cultivation of vacant lands, provision of irrigation facilities and strengthening of plant protection measures have been taken up as part of this Emergency Food Production Drive, by the Kerala Government.

#### **Dry Milk from U.S.A.**

**1762. Shri Murli Manohar:  
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:**

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States Agency for International Development has promised to send immediately to India 7,300 tons of dry milk;

(b) if so, the terms of the contract; and

(c) the value of the non-fat dry milk? .