

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main features of the programme are :

- (i) Demonstrations to the farmers and traders of the utility and suitability of metal bins for storing various foodgrains under diverse climatic conditions.
- (ii) Advice to manufacturers of engineering goods all over the country to manufacture the right type of bins by providing them with technical know-how and specifications.
- (iii) Train extension workers in the modern technology of storage.

(c) As a result of the above steps taken by the Government, metal bins are gaining popularity with farmers in U.P. and Punjab. The manufacture of metal bins which was practically unknown before the start of the programme, has now been taken up by as many as twenty firms.

Extension work is in a preliminary stage in the States of Bihar, M.P., Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

CHIEF MINISTER'S CONFERENCE
ON FOOD

589. SHRI R. BARUA :
SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA :
SHRI D. C. SHARMA :
SHRI PRAKASH VIR SHASTRI :
SHRI HIMATSINGKA :
SHRI RABI RAY :
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :
SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :
SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :
SHRI DEO RAO PATIL :
SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :

- SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :
SHRI HEM RAJ :
SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :
SHRI SHIV KUMAR SHASTRI :
SHRI HEM BARUA :
SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA :
SHRI RAM SWARUP VIDYARTHI :
SHRI BHARAT SINGH CHAUHAN :
SHRI BANSH NARAIN SINGH :
SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :
SHRI SHARDA NAND :
SHRI S. S. KOTHARI :
SHRI P. C. ADICHAN :
SHRI YASHWANT SINGH KUSHWAH :
SHRI DIRESWAR KALITA :
SHRI SAMAR GUHA :
SHRI C. MUTHUSAMI :
SHRI RAM KISHAN GUPTA :
SHRI R. K. AMIN :
SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD :
SHRI V. NARASIMHA RAO :
SHRI LATAFAT ALI KHAN :
SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH SHASTRI :
SHRI D. N. DEB :
SHRI P. VENKATASUBAIAH :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister's Conference was held on the 23rd September, 1968 to discuss procurement food zones rationing and the sugar policy;

(b) if so, the main decisions arrived at;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the Chief Ministers differed with Government's food policy; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was decided to continue last year's procurement prices of kharif cereals for 1968-69 and also to maintain the existing zonal restrictions. It was also decided to continue the policy of partial de-control of sugar with increase in the levy percentage with the increase in the availability.

(c) and (d). In any discussion on food policy at the all-India level it is natural to expect some differences of approach. However, after a frank discussions on various aspects, a consensus on the major lines of policy was reached.

FOODGRAINS PRODUCTION

590. SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in spite of increase in high yielding varieties of seeds during 1967-68 the total increase in foodgrains production as compared to those in 1964-65 was only 6.6 million tons;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the estimated production for 1968-69?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The High-Yielding varieties programme was in operation in 1967-68 in respect of 5 cereal crops, namely, paddy, wheat, maize, bajra and jowar, over an area which was not more than 5 per cent of the total area under foodgrains cultivation. The increase in over-

all production was as much as 35% in the case of wheat and maize and 15% in the case of bajra and was to a considerable extent due to High-Yielding programme. However, higher production of rice in the high-yielding varieties programme areas was off-set by a decline in the rice production under normal cultivation due to adverse weather conditions during October-November 1967 in various parts of the country such as deficient Hathia rains in Bihar and inadequacy of rainfall in Orissa, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Firm estimates of production of foodgrains during 1968-69 will be available only after the close of the agricultural year.

POSTAL STAMPS ISSUED BY THE P & T DEPARTMENT

591. SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to lay a statement on the Table indicating the number and brief description of each of the new postal stamps issued by the Posts and Telegraphs Department since January, 1968?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library See No. LT-2094/68*].

OPENING OF ANOTHER SUPER BAZAR IN DELHI

592. SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ 6528 on the 29th August, 1968 and state :

(a) whether the proposal regarding opening of another Super Bazar in Delhi has since been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) No, Sir. The proposal is still under