

far is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2131/69].

(b) The demands received from the States cannot be and are not always met in full. After completing whatever supplies could be arranged upto the end of October, 1969, the stocks of foodgrains available physically in godowns on Central account were about 25.9 lakh tonnes.

(c) Procurement operations continue throughout the year. There is no point of time when procurement operations for all the grains could be said to have been completed. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate what will be the stock position after procurement operations are completed.

Import of Foodgrains

1657. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of foodgrains imported so far during the current year from all the sources ;

(b) the quantities further contracted for and those expected to arrive within the current year ; and

(c) the repercussions of the imports on the local procurement and maintenance of remunerative prices that farmers are getting so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). A quantity of 35.13 lakh tonnes of foodgrains has been imported during the period from 1st January 1969 to 31st October 1969, and about 3.75 lakh tonnes are expected to arrive during November and December 1969.

(c) These imports cannot cause adverse repercussions on local procurement and the economy of the Indian farmers as the Government have undertaken to purchase all foodgrains of fair average quality offered for sale at the procurement prices fixed by the Government which are at such a level as to be remunerative to the producer.

Storage Capacity of Foodgrains in India

1658. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the highest quantity of foodgrains held at any time during the last 3 years by Government in their store houses ;

(b) the storage capacity built in the various States ;

(c) whether this will be sufficient to cover all the imports of over 5 million tonnes plus procurements to be made locally during the current year ; and

(d) if not, how it is proposed to arrange safe storage for all the stocks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a). During the last three years, the total physical stocks of foodgrains in the Central pool and with the State Governments were the highest, viz., about 54.81 lakh tonnes, at the end of June, 1969.

(b) As on 1st November, 1969 the F.C.I. had owned capacity of about 26.39 lakh tonnes in the various States.

(c) During 1969, the imports of all foodgrains are estimated at about 40 lakh tonnes. Some issues will also take place according to the needs of the various States from time to time. Apart from their owned capacity, godowns are also hired by the F.C.I. from various sources. The State Governments have also their own storage accommodation. Besides this, additional storage capacity is being built in the various States. With the capacity already available and steps taken to put up additional capacity, it would be possible to meet the storage needs.

(d) Does not arise.

Losses suffered on Handling of Foodgrains

1659. SHRI S.R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state ;