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Statement

While replying to a supplementary question by Shri Mahadeepak Singh Shakya in connection with the Starred Question No. 728 answered on the 16th April, 1973, it was stated that the B.C.G. Vaccination Programme was not just now a part of the National Programme.

This statement was subsequently checked and I want to clarify the position that the B.C.G. Vaccination Programme is no longer a separate scheme under the National Tuberculosis Control Programme, but an integral part of it.

It is regretted that the mistake was not noticed earlier.

12.48 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. GOVERNMENT DECISION TO REDUCE THE QUANTUM OF ALLOTMENT OF WHEAT TO U.P. AND OTHER STATES

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): I beg to lay a statement on the Table of the House.

Statement

Allotments of foodgrains from the Central Pool are made to the State Governments every month taking into account the over all availability in the Central Pool and the needs of all deficit and drought affected States. In view of the difficult food supply position in the country resulting from last year's inadequate and erratic rains and consequent wide-spread drought conditions in the country it has not been possible to meet the entire demands of the State Governments. Every effort is, however, being made to meet substantially the requirements of the drought affected and deficit States.

On account of the short-fall in the procurement of wheat a decision was taken to replenish the stocks by importing foodgrains. As it is necessary to keep a steady flow of wheat all the coming in of

the next rabi crop, supplies to States have to be regulated taking into account the present stocks available in the Central Pool and the expected imports from abroad. Keeping in view the prospects of the current kharif crop a reduction in the allocation of wheat during September was made to U.P. and other States. Reduction of allotment in the case of U.P. should not cause undue hardship as U.P. is surplus in rice, wheat and coarse grains and due to recent wide-spread rains there has been allround improvement in kharif crop prospects in Uttar Pradesh.

12.18 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. ACUTE SHORTAGE OF FOODGRAINS IN KERALA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): I beg to lay a statement on the Table of the House.

Statement

Kerala is deficit in foodgrains and has to depend on supplies from the Centre. The monthly demand of Kerala for rice is 70 to 75 thousand tonnes. Till the end of 1972, there was no formal allotment of rice to Kerala. The State Government was permitted to draw its full requirements of rice for meeting the public distribution requirements from the local Food Corporation of India depots where Central stocks are held. Due to severe drought in the country during 1972-73 causing considerable damage to kharif crops, Centre has to step up supplies of foodgrains to the States and this has put considerable strain on the stocks in Central pool. The availability of rice in Central Pool was also affected due to short-fall in procurement of rice during the current kharif season. The availability of rice in the world market is also very low and prices are exorbitant. It has not, therefore, been possible to purchase any rice from abroad to replenish the stocks. The allotments of rice had, therefore, to be curtailed in respect of all deficit States including Kerala from May,