

put a demand. And it was his right to ask for foodgrains which were his share for the State. And we went in certain matters. Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, to my mind, is not doing any thing to improve relations between Central Government and West Bengal. It is very unfortunate, Sir. We, on our part, are very keen that every State should be satisfied and must feel being properly looked after by the Central Government without any discrimination, least of all, in the matter of foodgrains. The figure that I gave was upto the end of August, 45,000. That figure was upto the end of August, as I said. I still accept the challenge of Mr. Somnath Chatterjee.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Chief Ministers' Conference

*4. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether the Chief Ministers' Conference was convened by the Union Agriculture Minister at New Delhi recently; and

(b) if so, the gist of the discussions held and decisions taken therein?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) and (b). A conference of the Chief

Ministers of important wheat producing and wheat consuming States was convened on 24th October, 1980 to discuss the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission on the price policy for wheat and barley for the 1980-81 crop season. While inviting the participating Chief Ministers and Ministers to give their views on the procurement/support prices for wheat and barley recommended by the A.P.C., the Union Minister of Agriculture and Rural Reconstruction stressed the need for building up a strong bufferstock of at least 20 million tonnes of foodgrains aiming at procurement of about 9 million tonnes of wheat and taking an overall balanced view with due regard to the interests of the producers and the consumers. Views of the participants were also sought in regard to issue prices of wheat. The Minister added that the recommendations of the A.P.C., the views expressed at the conference and the views of Planning Commission and other concerned Ministries would all be placed before the Cabinet for taking a final decision in regard to fixation of procurement/support prices of wheat and barley. The Chief Ministers/Ministers of the participating States mostly suggested the fixation of procurement price of wheat in the range of Rs. 127 and Rs. 150 per quintal and the minimum support price of barley in the range of Rs. 95 and Rs. 140 per quintal. Briefly, the views of State Governments on procurement/support prices of wheat and barley and issue price of wheat are as under:

Procurement and issue prices of wheat and support prices of barley suggested during the Conference.

(1)	Wheat		Rs. per quintal Barley
	Procurement Price	Issue Price	
Haryana	150	May be increased	140
Punjab	142	Raised reasonably but no increase for weaker sections	..
Karnataka	142	Proportionate increase	
U.P.	140	150—155	110
M.P.	140	..	95
Bihar	133	Some increase	
J&K		Would agree to Govt. of India's decision, provided it did not put any extra burden on the State	
West Bengal	some increase	No increase	
Rajasthan	127	141	110
Assam	127	Proportionate increase	
Maharashtra		Procurement prices should be different for different States keeping in view the cost of production	
Tamil Nadu		Did not attend	

No Government decision regarding the procurement price of wheat and support price of barley have been taken so far. These are likely to be taken during this month.

Incentives to new Sugar Units

*5. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH
THAKUR:
SHRI B. V. DESAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to offer incentives to new sugar units in the country as reported in the *Indian Express* of 18th October, 1960;

(b) if so, the details of the incentives proposed to be offered to the sugar units and the period thereof; and

(c) the extent to which such incentives will be helpful in production of sugar in the country and to meet domestic requirements?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) and (b). The Government of India have announced a revised scheme for granting incentives to new sugar factories on 4-10-1960. A note highlighting the salient features of the revised incentive scheme, as approved by the Government, is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The substantial incentives will facilitate the setting up of new viable