

ding to our information—I think, the Minister of Rehabilitation will bear me out—in the distribution of rations to the millions of refugees in West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya, there have been a number of not only irregularities but also shortfall of supply to the refugees due to storage problem as also supply problem. I want to know whether this is a fact and if so, will the Government take steps to rectify this ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Storage problem, by and large, was not so acute in the Eastern States or the deficit States in the past. The storage problem is acute in surplus States like Punjab and Haryana and also due to slow railway movement.

As far as disruption of supplies is concerned it was due to floods and because of the difficulties of rail movement. Now the position has improved and at the moment there is no difficulty.

SHRI K. NARAYANA RAO : Has any representation been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh about the inadequate nature of storage facilities and whether the Central Government has taken any steps to improve the existing position ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : We have reviewed the Statewise position. In Andhra, additional storage capacity will have to be constructed and the Government has given due thought to it.

श्री बी. पी. मौर्य : जैसा कि कृषि मंत्री स्वयं जानते हैं जो आकृती होता है वह तौल में भी ज्यादा लेता है और दामों में भी किसान को बहुत परेशान करता है। जो दाम सरकार दे, सीधे किसानों को उसका लाभ पहुंचे और किसानों की यह परेशानी दूर हो, इसके बारे में क्या कृषि मंत्री कुछ विशेष कदम उठाएंगे ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : The question is regarding storage. I appreciate the hon. Member's concern, but it does not arise out of this.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lakshmanan—ab-

Offer of aid from U.S.S.R. and Hungary for Development of Sugarbeet and Sunflower

*312. **SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH :**
SHRI P.M. MEHTA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether recently USSR and Hungary have offered assistance in India's agricultural development, particularly in new fields like cultivation of sugar-beet and sunflower ;

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

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) to (c). Yes Sir ; So far as the U. S. S. R. is concerned the Protocol signed with that country was placed on the Table of the House in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4348 on the 8th July, 1971. As regards Hungary a similar Protocol is being negotiated. The emphasis in both cases is on Joint Collaborative Programmes of agriculture in fields mutually determined from time to time.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Government consider the question of coming to an agreement with other West-European countries like West Germany which has experience of sugar-beet cultivation and also which are the areas in India where the Government propose to cultivate sugar-beet ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : As far as development of agricultural sciences and agricultural technology are concerned, we are trying to have the maximum possible collaboration or co-operation with all the friendly countries. As far as West Germany is concerned, we are taking collaboration in various fields and sciences and as the hon. Member is aware, West Germany has a number of Area Development Programmes in our country like Mandi.

As far as sugar-beet growing areas are concerned, mainly the irrigated regions, in

North India and areas close to the foothills of the Himalayas are suitable for sugar-beet cultivation.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the claim of Bihar also considered in this regard ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : We are trying in various areas. We have taken up the programmes on a pilot project basis. So, if the pilot projects succeed, the programme can be extended to Bihar also.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will you establish a pilot project in Bihar also ?

MR. SPEAKER : Two supplementaries should be enough for a Member.

Mr. SPEAKER : Shri Jyotirmoy Bōsu—absent.

Shri Halder—absent.

Supply of Foodgrains to Orissa for Distribution to Cyclone affected Persons

*315. **SHRI P. GANGADEB :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the quantity of foodgrains supplied to the State Government of Orissa for distribution to the cyclone affected persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : At the request of the State Government of Orissa, 25,000 tonnes of foodgrains have been allotted from the Central pool for distribution in the cyclone-affected areas, over and above their normal allotment. Requests for further allotments would be fully met.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : What is the report of the central team of experts on relief work assessments and what are their suggestions for better distribution of foodgrains aid given ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : As far as distribution of foodgrains is concerned, I have already said there are adequate supplies ; we have made substantial allotment. There is no difficulty. As far as

the central team is concerned, I have not seen the report.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : In regard to the distribution by the Centre, may know this, whether the Government have advised the State of Orissa to give more priority to the aid to be given in kind rather than in cash for the better achievement of the purpose ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : This is a suggestion for action. We shall consider it.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : We were told in the first week of November that they had no storage and they have had to move rice from interior distant places, in Orissa. May I know whether F. C. I. is not to have godowns in each district for storage purposes ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : District-wise godowns are to be constructed by the State Governments. Now, the FCI has adequate capacity and they look into the needs of all States, including Orissa State. There is no difficulty on that account.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : They took 4 or 5 days.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : What was the total quantity asked for by the State Government ? From what date did the foodgrains start moving ? What percentage of foodgrains started moving ? These are the points I want to know.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : 25,000 tonnes were asked for and all these were given.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : I wanted to know the total quantity of rice which the State Government asked for and from what date it started moving. That was what I specifically asked, Sir.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : All that they asked for were allotted.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : By what date ?

MR. SPEAKER : From the date they asked.