

Husbandry (Class I Officer of the State Government) who has his headquarters at Midnapore.

(c) During the current year, 950 acres of land have been brought under cultivation as against 500 aeres cultivated last year. Fertility of the land is being improved through Soil Conservation measures. One tubewell with a discharge of about 1500 gallons of water per hour has been sunk. Further investigation for determining availability of water is being carried out before sinking more tubewells in the area.

Alleged failure of Centre to meet commitments of supply of Rice to West Bengal

*458. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of West Bengal has stated that the ration cut imposed by it in the Greater Calcutta statutory rationing area from 1 kg. of rice per head per week to 750 gms. has been necessitated by the Centre's failure to fulfil its commitments of rice despatches to that State;

(b) if so, whether Government of Indian concur with this view;

(c) whether the State Government has also warned that the rationing system itself may collapse, if Central Supplies are not rushed immediately; and

(d) if so, the Government's reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) to (d). According to the State Government, the rice scale in the Statutory Rationing Areas of West Bengal was reduced on account of the shortfall in rice procurement by the State Government and also the reduction in the allotment of rice from the Central Pool. Rice requirements of West Bengal, including that of the Statutory Rationing Areas, are required to be

met both from the stocks allotted by the Centre and those procured by the State Government.

Efforts will be made to meet the reasonable requirements of West Bengal Government from the Central Pool, taking into account the overall availability of rice in the Central Pool and needs of the deficit and drought-affected States.

Cultural troupes from Latin American Countries visited India

*459. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:
SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cultural troupes from Latin American countries which visited India since 1970; and

(b) the name of the countries whom they represent?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) No performing troupe from any Latin American country visited India since 1970. However the following visitors and exhibition from Latin American countries visited India since 1970:—

Argentina (1970)

1. Dr. Abelardo Arias (Writer)
2. Madame Maria Teresa Y. F. Decora (Director of National Museum of Oriental Art along with her husband)

Chile (1970)

1. Senora S. B. Alvarez (Mayor)

Brazil (1971)

1. Exhibition of children's Art

Chile (1972)

1. Prof. Horacio Serrano (Writer)

(b) Does not arise.