

(a) whether the federation of All India Foodgrain Dealers, Association submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister's Conference in April, 1971 in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the main demands in the memorandum and the reaction of the Chief Ministers on each of the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) A statement indicating the demands made in the memorandum is laid on the table of the Sabha. The Chief Minister's Conference held at New Delhi on 17 April, 1971 was convened only to discuss the price policy for Rabi foodgrains for the 1971-72 season. The points raised in the memorandum were not included in the agenda for the conference. However, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra did raise the question of removal of restriction on the movement of wheat and wheat products to and from the statutorily rationed areas in Maharashtra.

STATEMENT

Demands in the memorandum made by the federation of All India Foodgrain Dealers, Association to the Chief Ministers of States on the occasion of their conference at New Delhi on 17th April, 1971.

(1) The restrictions on the movement of coarse grains should be withdrawn in those States where they still exist.

(2) The system of monopoly procurement of Jowar in Maharashtra should be discontinued.

(3) Statutory rationing should be abolished in Bombay, Calcutta and the Asansol-Durgapur industrial complex.

(4) The restrictions on the movement of rice should be withdrawn. If this

cannot be done then the country should be divided in to four broad Rice Zones.

Frequent Increase in The Price of Vanaspati Oil

*864. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the price of vanaspati oil had been increased for a number of times during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such frequent increase in the prices and the effect of buffer stock of vegetable oils on the prices of vanaspati oil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) During the last three years the prices of vanaspati were on an average, increased 4 to 5 times per year in the different Zones. During the same period they were also lowered 3 to 4 times per year in the different zones.

(b) These price revisions were necessitated by the fluctuations in the cost of indigenous oils used in the manufacture of vanaspati and the permitted level of usage of cheaper imported oils. There is no proposal at present for creating a buffer stock of vegetable oils.

Procurement of Items from Indian Manufacturers

*865. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH : Will the Minister of SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have explored all the possibilities of procuring the largest number of items from the Indian Manufacturers; and