

Aid to Maharashtra under World Food Programme

*487. SHRI P. V. PERIASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and quantum of assistance received by Maharashtra in 1969 from the World Food Programme of the United Nations;

(b) the nature and quantum of assistance received recently by that State from the same source;

(c) the number of workers who were benefited in 1969 and the number of workers benefited recently; and

(d) whether such assistance is confined only to Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) In accordance with the information available, the World Food Programme of the United Nations had committed supply of skimmed milk powder and maize for the multi-State animal husbandry and dairy projects over a period of 5 years. A quantity of 1572 Metric Tons of skimmed milk powder and 879 Metric Tons of maize was received by Maharashtra in 1969.

(b) Further assistance has recently been approved by the World Food Programme for projects in Maharashtra as under:—

Wheat	141,459	Metric Tons
Skimmed Milk Powder	8,505	„ „
Edible Oil	9,899	„ „

(c) The projects operative in 1969 benefited 1060 farmers and one lakh families. Currently the number of

beneficiaries is 341,000. In addition, the State and its people have benefited by various activities undertaken in the State under project 618 (Operation Flood).

(d) No, Sir. Assistance has been provided by the WFP to a number of other States also.

I.C.A.R. Plan on Rice Production

*488. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:
SHRIMATI PARVATHI
KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has suggested a new programme to the Prime Minister to boost the rice production in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the programme and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However a Joint Team of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the International Rice Research Institute, Philippines conducted a production oriented survey on rice in problem areas of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal. The aim of the Survey was to identify the constraints responsible for the gap between potential and actual farm yields. On the basis of the recommendations made by this Team, operational research projects for increasing rice productivity in the flood prone, rainfed upland areas and pest endemic areas of Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal have been formulated and are under consideration. A note giving details of the recommendations of the ICAR-IRRI Team is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1420/77].